



ANNUAL REPORT 2002

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE • OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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WARSAW, DECEMBER 2002

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INTRODUCTION

During 2002, the ODIHR continued to consolidate and fine-tune its existing election, democratization and human rights programmes with a focus on supporting the development of in-country capacities eventually leading to self-sustainability in these essential fields of the human dimension.

The Office also ventured into new areas such as the fight against terrorism, the assessment of elections in long-standing democracies, and the organization of OSCE-internal regional co-ordination meetings.

In its 2002 activities, the ODIHR proved again that it is able to respond flexibly and quickly to suddenly emerging needs or opportunities – one of the Office's greatest comparative advantages. It is this high degree of flexibility that allowed the ODIHR to accommodate requests to observe or assess a total of 20 elections in 2002, many more than initially planned. In its project work, the ODIHR made every effort to ensure that last-minute developments and new opportunities were always fully factored into both its short-term, high-impact activities, as well as longer-term capacity-building programmes.

The Office's **election observation** schedule this year included an unprecedented number of electoral events observed or assessed by ODIHR missions and expert teams.

Nearly half of the missions deployed in 2002 were sent to monitor a long series of elections that took place in South Eastern Europe during the second half of the year, including the 900-observer-strong monitoring mission for the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in September. With this mission, the largest ever deployed by the OSCE, the ODIHR played an important role in making the elections a significant step in the confidence-building process after last year's crisis in the country.

For the first time, the ODIHR this year observed elections in some of the OSCE's long-standing democracies. Invited by the respective governments, the Office sent expert teams to assess the presidential elections in France, the parliamentary elections in Turkey and the congressional elections in the United States.

The ODIHR also succeeded in improving follow-ups to recommendations included in its final election reports. It continued to provide **technical assistance** to the authorities and civil society to reform the legislative and administrative frameworks for elections.

In Albania and Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), the Office played a key role in overcoming serious election-related disputes between the major political forces – with positive political implications going far beyond the specific electoral technicalities in question. In Albania, the agreement reached between government and opposition political parties on the creation of a joint commission to investigate concerns surrounding last year's elections signaled the start of a new era of dialogue and consensus on the Albanian political scene. In Montenegro, where the growing political divide between the parliamentary parties threatened to destabilize the Republic's political processes, it was due to mediation by the ODIHR and other international actors that the parliamentary elections could take place as planned in October and a constitutional crisis be prevented.

With a view to clarifying international election commitments and standards reflecting developments in this field over the past decade, the ODIHR has begun work on a major **compilation of existing election-related standards**, commitments and case law. The presentation of the initial draft compilation at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September was welcomed by the participants and the ODIHR was urged to continue this work during the forth-

coming year in consultation with other international organizations active in this field.

In the field of **democratization**, the ODIHR again carried out more than 100 assistance projects in over 20 countries across the OSCE region to build democratic institutions and strengthen the rule of law, civil society and respect for human rights. The ODIHR's democratization activities were primarily conducted across five thematic fields of work: rule of law, civil society, equality between men and women, combating trafficking in human beings, and freedom of movement and migration. In October, a sixth thematic field was added: **anti-terrorism**. The new Anti-Terrorism Co-ordinator has begun building awareness of human dimension issues in combating terrorism and developing projects which fundamentally address factors engendering terrorism.

In addition to its heavy programme load, the Office was faced with a steady demand for human dimension exper-



tise coming from both within the OSCE (Secretariat, institutions and missions) and from outside (international organizations, partner organizations, NGOs). In order to improve synergies and the sharing of best practices among OSCE field missions, the ODIHR launched a process of **regional co-ordination meetings** among human dimension officers and senior mission personnel in South Eastern Europe. Four such co-ordination meetings took place in 2002, highlighting cross-border processes and enhancing the exchange and sharing of lessons learned between missions and projects in the human dimension. Due to the remarkable success of this process, similar "bottom-up" initiatives have begun with missions from other regions as well.

In the context of its counter-terrorism and human rights monitoring activities, the ODIHR organized a major international **conference in Baku on the role of religions in preventing terrorism** and conflict. The conference called on governments to ensure freedom of religion, and to direct counter-terrorism measures at individual perpetrators only, and not against the national, ethnic or religious community to which they belong.

The ODIHR also prepared and organized a number of regular **human dimension meetings** in Warsaw and Vienna. This year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, with over 700 participants the largest ever in the ten-year history of the meeting, was organized in a new format that resulted in more topical and lively discussions in the working sessions and side meetings. Two special one-day sessions, one of the major innovations of the meeting's new format, focused on combating trafficking in human beings and developing international election standards.

In the field of **Roma and Sinti issues**, the ODIHR Contact Point focused on promoting participation of Roma in public life, particularly during elections, and preventing conflict

OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis (right) awards the OSCE medal to outgoing ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann (left) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Organization

between Roma communities and municipalities over housing-related issues at the grassroots level. The Office also addressed tensions and other side effects linked to legal or illegal migration of Roma in Europe.

ELECTIONS

The ODIHR, Europe's lead agency in the field of election observation, co-ordinates and organizes the deployment of thousands of observers every year to assess whether elections in the OSCE area are in line with national legislation and international standards. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process. A standard election observation mission consists of election experts and long-term and short-term observers, who monitor the entire electoral process before, during and after election day. This includes the legal and regulatory framework, the election administration, the media environment, the election campaign, as well as the voting and counting processes. Through assistance projects, usually developed on the basis of recommendations made in the final reports of election observation missions, the ODIHR helps participating States to improve their electoral framework.

In 2002, the ODIHR focused on the following priorities:

- Review existing standards for democratic elections scattered in numerous international instruments from various forums, and compile a comprehensive list of these standards in a usable format.
- Diversify the staff of ODIHR election observation missions by increasing the participation of experts, long-term and short-term observers from South Eastern, Central and Eastern Europe as well as the CIS through the voluntary fund for the purpose.
- Improve the political follow-up to ODIHR election observation missions, reports and recommendations in accordance with the Istanbul Summit Declaration and the 2001 ODIHR Human Dimension Seminar conclusions.
- Consolidate the considerable improvements noted in the electoral processes in South Eastern Europe.
- Contribute to conflict mitigation through electoral assistance and observations in Albania, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

As the year unfolded, the Office's limited resources were stretched thin with a record number of 20 observation and assessment missions on the ODIHR's 2002 election calendar.

The following activities detail the missions and assistance activities the ODIHR undertook during 2002 to implement its planned priorities for the year and the emerging demands.

ELECTION OBSERVATION

Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (31 March)

The ODIHR observed the 31 March elections to the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and in a preliminary report, issued jointly with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA), the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and the European Parliament (EP), stated that the elections indicated progress over the 1998 parliamentary polls, though important flaws persist.

To complete the observation process, a joint mission of the ODIHR, OSCE PA, PACE and EP returned to Ukraine for a three-day visit from 9 to 11 May to review the crucial post-election phase.

In a final report, the ODIHR concluded that, despite some shortcomings, the elections brought Ukraine closer to meeting international commitments and standards for democratic elections. While Ukraine met commitments fully or partially in such areas as universality, transparency, freedom and accountability, it failed to ensure fairness in the process. Technical improvements in election day procedures are needed to protect the secrecy of the ballot and to provide the voters with an orderly and dignified process.

On the positive side, the international observers highlighted the new and improved election law, an efficient central election administration, and the broad spectrum of 33 parties and blocs with some 7,000 candidates contesting for votes. Media performance generally displayed greater access by candidates and parties through TV debates, free airtime and paid advertising. However, virtually all media remained highly biased, and state-funded television gave disproportionate coverage to the pro-presidential candidates.

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Several other shortcomings contributed to a general atmosphere of distrust and a low level of public confidence in the election process. These shortcomings included abuse of administrative resources, interference by local authorities, shortcomings in the implementation of the new election legislation, and a campaign marred by the murder of a prominent candidate, other isolated cases of violence and allegations of intimidation and harassment against opposition candidates, activists and voters.

The ODIHR long-term Election Observation Mission, headed by Amb. Michael G. Wygant (USA), monitored the electoral process with 38 experts and long-term observers deployed in the capital and 13 regional centres. On election day, the International Observation Mission deployed around 400 short-term observers from 45 OSCE participating States throughout the country, including 45 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA, 19 from the PACE, and three from the EP.

Parliamentary Elections in Hungary (7 April)

The ODIHR observed the first round of the 7 April parliamentary elections in Hungary and continued a presence for the second round on 21 April. In a preliminary statement issued on 8 April, the ODIHR concluded that the first round was in line with international standards and commitments for democratic elections, although specific issues should be addressed. The Election Observation Mission noted that the election system and its supporting administrative structures provide the basis for a generally transparent, accountable, free, fair, and equal process. The relevant legislation establishes a framework for holding democratic elections and the election administration enhances the credibility of the electoral process.

Nonetheless, certain issues must be addressed to ensure that the positive elements of the electoral system can be sustained over the longer term. These issues include the establishment of the National Election Committee (NEC), lack of authority of the NEC to issue binding instructions to lower level election commissions, submission of coupons in support of nomination of candidates, and delays and inadequate resolution of appeals procedures for complaints related to the media during the campaign period.

The ten-member Election Observation Mission, headed by Linda Edgeworth (USA), was deployed in Budapest, Pecs and Debrecen for the month preceding the first round. The Mission did not deploy short-term observers to monitor election day proceedings. The Head of Mission stayed for the second round to follow the campaign.

Presidential elections in France (21 April and 5 May)

Following an invitation by the French Government to assess the presidential elections on 21 April and 5 May, an ODIHR delegation visited Paris twice in April to assess the pre-election environment and the first round of voting. ODIHR Director Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann headed the delegation which included ODIHR experts, a Member of the Swiss Parliament, representatives of the Central Election Commissions of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and an election expert from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In the course of the first visit on 8 April, the delegation met with representatives of the Government and the Municipality of Paris, as well as members of the *Conseil Constitutionnel* and the *Conseil d'État*. The ODIHR was particularly interested in the new rules for campaign financing that were introduced to ensure equality for all candidates in the elections.

On the occasion of the first round of elections, on 21 April, the ODIHR delegation had the opportunity to assess the electoral legislation and procedures, noting their transparency as well as the high level of professionalism of the election administration bodies.

Municipal elections in Montenegro/FRY (15 May)

In a report published on 21 June, the ODIHR concluded that the 15 May municipal elections in the Republic of Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were generally conducted in accordance with OSCE commitments. The international observers noted that voters were able to choose from a wide range of political parties. Broad access to information was available through the media. The accuracy and transparency of voter registers were further improved, and political parties were well-represented on election commissions at all levels.

While noting the strengths of the electoral framework, the ODIHR monitors also observed some shortcomings. The control of election mandates by political parties and coalitions remained a key concern, as this practice in effect prevented voters from knowing which candidates they were electing. There were isolated incidents of violence. The media were generally biased and the print media violated the campaign silence period.

The ODIHR long-term observation mission, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria), included 18 election experts and long-term observers. For election day, the ODIHR, joined by the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) deployed 114 short-term observers.

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Parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic (14-15 June)

In a report published on 16 July, the ODIHR concluded that the 14-15 June parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic met international standards and commitments. The new election administration system instituted after the last parliamentary elections worked well due to the high level of public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election administration. Technical preparations for the election were carried out efficiently, including training for election officials. For the first time, voting by Czech citizens outside the country was permitted; however, very few citizens abroad took advantage of this opportunity. While there were relatively few election-related complaints and appeals, the ODIHR noted that the law and its application may not provide timely and effective remedies for complainants.

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, headed by Peter Eicher (USA), consisted of eight election experts and long-term observers from seven participating States. No short-term observers were deployed for these elections.

Municipal by-elections in southern Serbia/FRY (28 July)

Following the observation of municipal by-elections in the southern Serbian municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo, and Medvedja on 28 July, the ODIHR concluded that the vote in these municipalities was generally conducted in accordance with OSCE commitments.

The 110 international observers deployed by the ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe noted that a positive atmosphere was created by the representation of all national minorities and political parties in election commissions and within the electoral process at all levels. The media generally abided by a code of conduct that required balanced coverage. Broad access was provided to both domestic and international observers.

While noting the strengths of the electoral framework, some shortcomings were also observed, in particular relating to the accuracy and transparency of voter registers. The election legislation also requires further amendments.

Following complaints, voting was repeated at several polling stations in Presevo and Bujanovac. ODIHR experts remained in Southern Serbia to assist the OSCE Mission in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with assessing repeat and run-off elections in Presevo and Bujanovac on 4 and 11 August. In general, the repeat elections marked an improvement in voting and counting procedures, though some technical shortcomings were also observed. The ODIHR Mission was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria).

Parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (15 September)

In what was its largest-ever election observation operation, the ODIHR monitored the 15 September parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and concluded that the elections were conducted largely in line with OSCE commitments and international standards.

In its final report, the ODIHR highlighted that among the positive aspects of the electoral process were the new election laws adopted earlier this year, the neutral and professional conduct of the State Election Commission and the election administration in general, as well as the electoral campaign, which was well organized and appropriately policed.

However, the ODIHR also expressed concern about a number of violent incidents, including the killing of police officers, hostage taking, and attacks on party offices and media representatives. While the media as a whole offered a wide range of information and views, the State media coverage of the campaign was biased in favour of the incumbents.

The ODIHR long-term election observation mission, headed by Julian Peel Yates (UK), was established in Skopje on 22 July and included 54 experts and long-term observers deployed in the capital and eleven regional centres. For election day observation, the ODIHR was joined by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. A total of more than 850 international observers were deployed for election day, including some 80 short-term observers contributed by the European Commission.

The ODIHR reinforced observation mission was viewed by the international community in Skopje as a major contribution to the success of this first post-conflict election in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Parliamentary elections in Slovakia (20-21 September)

The ODIHR observed the 20-21 September parliamentary elections in Slovakia, concluding that the elections met international standards. The Mission noted in a report published in October that the electoral administration worked efficiently and in an impartial and transparent way at all levels, and enjoyed a high level of popular trust. The election legislation was amended over the past four years to improve the credibility, transparency, and accountability of procedures. With respect to the media situation, the ODIHR noted that public TV and radio fulfilled their legal obligations and covered the campaign in a balanced way. Private electronic and

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print media, as a whole, provided a variety of views concerning the campaign.

Nonetheless, some shortcomings of the legislative framework remain: Central Election Commission regulatory instructions should be binding on lower level election commissions; provisions for domestic and international observers should be included, though accreditation to both was granted liberally; and provisions governing the treatment of the electoral campaign by electronic media should be clarified.

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, headed by Amb. Michael G. Wygant (USA), consisted of ten election experts and long-term observers from eight participating States. In addition to a head office in Bratislava, mission members were also based in major regional centres. The mission did not undertake an observation of polling stations on election days.

Presidential election in Serbia/FRY (29 September, 13 October, and 8 December)

The ODIHR observed the two rounds of the presidential elections in the Republic of Serbia/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 29 September and 13 October.



Despite persisting shortcomings, the first round of the Serbian presidential elections on 29 September was largely in line with international standards, concluded the ODIHR in a preliminary statement issued on 30 September. The international observers noted that with 11 candidates running for the presidency, the voters had a genuine choice. The campaign remained calm, although at times some candidates went beyond acceptable limits in their rhetoric. No major irregularities were reported during election day. Both public

and private media generally fulfilled their legal obligations and covered the campaign in a largely unbiased way, enabling the voters to make an informed choice.

The shortcomings still marring the legislative framework include a number of ambiguous and contradicting provisions, a 50% turnout requirement in the second round that can potentially lead to a series of repeat elections without outcome, and the absence of intermediary election administration bodies between the Republican Election Commission and the local polling boards.

The statement issued after the second round, which failed due to an insufficient voter turnout, confirmed the conclusions reached after the first round. The ODIHR urged the parliament to improve the Republic's electoral legislation ahead of the repeat vote. The Office particularly suggested repealing the 50% second-round turnout requirement, as this provision would promote boycott by unsuccessful first-round candidates, undermine voter confidence, contradict the spirit of the Constitution and could ultimately lead to a constitutional crisis caused by a series of unsuccessful attempts to elect a new president.

The ODIHR long-term Election Observation Mission, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria), included 28 election experts based in Belgrade and nine regional centres through-

A voter casting his ballot during the parliamentary election in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

out the Republic as well as Kosovo. For the election day on 29 September, the ODIHR was joined by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. More than 230 international observers monitored the polls on the first round of elections. The second round was monitored by 114 international observers.

At the time of writing, repeat elections were scheduled to take place on 8 December. The ODIHR will observe the repeat elections.

General elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 October)

The ODIHR observed the 5 October general polls in Bosnia and Herzegovina and found that the elections were largely in

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line with international standards considering the country's unique constitutional framework. The adoption of election legislation and the creation of electoral administration bodies at the national level resulted in a normalization of the electoral process after years of direct international supervision. However, the elections were held within a unique constitutional framework in which ultimate responsibility still rested with the international community. As in previous elections, the international community took a number of steps affecting key aspects of the electoral process which, while in line with its mandate, would have been irregular by international standards under other circumstances. Such measures will hopefully be unnecessary in future elections.

Shortcomings included the highly negative and often personalized nature of the campaign with little meaningful debate on reform issues, and the failure of the authorities to



make timely decisions on a number of important electoral issues. The mission also noted considerable distrust among party officials as regards important aspects of the electoral process, including the complaints procedure, the composition of polling station committees and the counting process for absentee and out-of-country ballots.

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, headed by Peter Eicher (USA), consisted of 30 election experts and long-term observers. In addition to a head office in Sarajevo, mission members were also based in eight major regional centres. For election day observation, the ODIHR was joined by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Thus, on election day, around 450 observers monitored the polls.

Parliamentary elections in Latvia (5 October)

In its report on the 5 October parliamentary vote in Latvia, the ODIHR concluded that the elections were conducted in accordance with international standards, although some issues remain to be addressed.

The international observers noted that the election was marked by a healthy level of political pluralism and increased transparency of the electoral process. There was a high degree of confidence by voters and candidates in the election administration. In a positive step, provisions requiring Latvian language proficiency by candidates were removed from the electoral legislation in the run-up to the elections. However, the election law still restricts candidates based on their past political party and security services affiliations, and a large portion of the population are not citizens and therefore are excluded from participating in elections. The election administration should be credited for overseeing a smooth and successful election. Some questions were raised by the ODIHR concerning the role of police officers in polling stations and the need to ensure the secrecy of the ballot.

The ODIHR observed campaign activities in the run-up to the September elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The ODIHR long-term election observation mission, headed by Gerald Mitchell (UK/USA), consisted of six observers deployed in Riga, and six in three regions of Latvia.

Early parliamentary elections in Montenegro (20 October)

The ODIHR observed the 20 October early parliamentary and partial municipal elections in the Republic of Montenegro, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The post-election statement concluded that these elections were conducted generally in accordance with international standards. However, the ODIHR also noted that several shortcomings in the legal framework persisted and that new challenges raised additional concerns. While the overall assessment of the electoral process was positive, the ODIHR raised concern about the deepening of the political divide that became apparent during the debate about changes to the election legislation in the summer of 2002. The mission also recommended to urgently change undemocratic provisions allowing political parties to control electoral mandates.

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The ODIHR noted that the elections were marked by a broad participation of political parties and coalitions, a generally calm campaign and adequate representation by political parties on election commissions at all levels. While State media coverage of the campaign was more balanced than in previous elections, private media largely failed to provide unbiased reporting.

The ODIHR long-term election observation mission, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria), consisted of 19 election experts and long-term observers based in Podgorica and four regional centres throughout the Republic. For election day observation, the ODIHR was joined by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Altogether, 116 short-term observers were deployed to monitor the polls on election day.

Early parliamentary elections in Turkey (3 November)

Following an invitation by the Turkish Government to observe the early parliamentary elections on 3 November, the ODIHR sent an election assessment team to Turkey. The mission consisting of five experts and headed by Peter Eicher (USA) looked into legislative and organizational aspects of the election process. The ODIHR did not deploy short-term observers on election day. The conclusions on the elections are expected to be published in December.

Congressional elections in the United States of America (5 November)

Following an invitation by the US Government to observe the congressional elections on 5 November, the ODIHR sent an assessment mission to the United States of America. The mission consisted of ten experts and was headed by ODIHR Director Stoudmann (Switzerland). The ODIHR did not deploy short-term observers on election day. The conclusions on these elections are expected to be published in December.

Presidential election in Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (22 December)

At the time of writing, the ODIHR is plans to observe the presidential elections in Montenegro on 22 December.

Expert assistance for political assessment

The ODIHR sent experts to support the resident OSCE Missions to conduct political assessments of the referendum in Uzbekistan (27 January), elections to local self-government bodies in Georgia (22 June), the election of Governor (Bashkan) of the Gagauz autonomous region of Moldova (6 and 20 October), and elections to local self-government bodies in Armenia (20 October).

ODIHR ELECTION OBSERVATION SCHEDULE 2002

COUNTRY	TYPE OF ELECTION	DATE
Ukraine	Parliamentary	31 March
Hungary	Parliamentary	7 April
France	Presidential	21 April / 5 May
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Municipal	15 May
Czech Republic	Parliamentary	14-15 June
Republic of Serbia/FRY	Partial municipal	28 July
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Parliamentary	15 September
Slovakia	Parliamentary	20-21 September
Republic of Serbia/ FRY	Presidential	29 September / 13 October
Latvia	Parliamentary	5 October
Bosnia and Herzegovina	General	5 October
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Early Parliamentary, Municipal (Podgorica)	20 October
Turkey	Early Parliamentary	3 November
USA	General	5 November
Republic of Serbia/FRY	Repeat Presidential	8 December
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Presidential	22 December

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TECHNICAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

Fourth round table on elections in Kazakhstan

The fourth round table on elections took place on 29 January in Astana under the auspices of the OSCE and focused on the role of the media during the election campaign. It was the last of a series of four round tables organized jointly by the ODIHR, the OSCE Centre in Almaty, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in collaboration with the Government and the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan.

The round tables brought together for the first time representatives of the Parliament, various government ministries and agencies, the Central Election Commission, political parties, including those not represented in Parliament, and civil society of Kazakhstan. The preceding round tables were devoted to the independence and transparency of the election administration, complaints and appeals procedures, and responses to violations of election legislation. The objective was to follow up ODIHR recommendations contained in the reports on the 1999 presidential and parliamentary elections, to examine Kazakhstan's current legislative framework, and to elaborate amendments in order to improve the overall legislative framework for elections.

The last round table submitted to the Parliament of Kazakhstan a comprehensive package of proposals to amend the country's election laws. It included a table showing areas of consensus and divergent opinions among political parties on how to improve the Election Code. The OSCE urged the Parliament to consider all proposals and ODIHR recommendations, and amend the Election Code in accordance with OSCE commitments. The OSCE will evaluate the results of the round-table process after the Parliament prepares a final draft of the proposed amendments.

The four round tables were made possible by a contribution from the United Kingdom.

Assistance to improve the electoral framework in Albania

In its report on the 2001 parliamentary elections, the ODIHR recommended that a bi-partisan parliamentary committee be established to investigate concerns surrounding the 2001 elections with a view to developing remedial proposals for the future. Following the establishment of the bi-partisan committee in May, the ODIHR has been working closely with the OSCE Presence and the Council of Europe to provide support and technical assistance, including the organization of four round-table meetings at the end of the year.

The establishment and the work of the bipartisan parliamentary committee signalled a new era of dialogue and consensus in the Albanian political scene. Through constructive dialogue, the committee has started to develop the amendments to the electoral legislation necessary to ensure a more democratic conduct of the forthcoming local government elections in 2003 and in general to improve the legislation for other elections in the future. The round tables were made possible by a contribution from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Albania.

Reform of Armenian Electoral Code

In May, a round table on the reform of the Armenian Electoral Code was organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the Council of Europe Representation in Yerevan and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in co-operation with the ODIHR and the Venice Commission. Participants included representatives from the Government, Parliament, political parties, election administration, judiciary, civil society and the international community.

Following the round table, the ODIHR and the Venice Commission jointly issued two assessments of amendments to the Electoral Code adopted in the first reading in May and in the second in July. The amendments contained a number of positive and welcome reforms, partially addressing ODIHR concerns.

This project was made possible by a contribution from the Government of Norway.

Electoral reform process in Azerbaijan

The ODIHR continued its assistance to the reform of the election framework in Azerbaijan and, in early July, called on the authorities to ensure that the process leading to the adoption of new election legislation be transparent and inclusive.

In October, the ODIHR announced that the public consultation process on reforming the country's election legislation would begin with an ODIHR round table in the first half of December 2002. In preparation of the round table process, it was agreed to make the draft new election law available to the public in mid-November.

Following the issuance of the draft election law, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission will share their comments and recommendations with all actors involved in the reform of the election legislation before the first round table in order to ensure a fully informed debate.

The ODIHR-sponsored round tables are expected to be attended by representatives of the Azerbaijani authorities, the Central Election Commission, political parties, members of

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Parliament, non-governmental organizations as well as the international community. This project was made possible by a contribution from the Government of Switzerland.

Draft guide on existing international election standards

In an effort to catalogue existing international standards for democratic elections, the ODIHR published a comprehensive draft guide in August. Since the adoption of the 1990 Copenhagen Document, additional commitments have supplemented its initial provisions. Other international instruments have enriched the standards for democratic elections. These commitments, standards, case law, comments and reports are dispersed across a considerable number of documents in various forums. As Europe's foremost institution addressing democratic elections, the ODIHR has accumulated a rich experience in the implementation of election-related commitments and is uniquely placed to review and analyse these documents. The ODIHR compiled a comprehensive and annotated initial document reviewing these standards and commitments. This document could serve to initiate a debate on the future development of OSCE commitments for democratic elections.

Initially, the draft document "International Standards and Commitments on the Right to Democratic Elections: A Practical Reference Guide to Democratic Elections Best Practice" was submitted to participating States for their consideration and for discussion during the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September. Participants in the meeting welcomed this initiative and urged the Ministerial Council to task the ODIHR to continue work on the document during the next year with a view to developing new commitments in the area of democratic elections, possibly a Copenhagen II Document. This project was made possible by a contribution from the Government of Switzerland.

Co-operation agreement with ACEEEO

An ODIHR delegation, headed by Deputy Director Steven Wagenseil, participated in the Annual Conference of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) held in Moscow on 26-28 September. The conference focused on the development of a draft Convention on Election Standards, Electoral Rights and Freedoms. Hrair Balian, Head of the ODIHR's Election Section, welcomed the ACEEEO initiative to develop the draft convention and complimented the drafting committee for having taken into account extensive comments from the ODIHR. The event was hosted by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. President Vladimir Putin attended the opening ceremony of the conference and welcomed the

initiative to further develop international standards and commitments for democratic elections.

The conference approved the draft Convention and agreed that it would be presented to international organizations for further discussion and consideration. The ODIHR and the ACEEEO signed a Co-operation Agreement on the margins of the conference to cover the two organizations' collaboration in the coming years.

Diversifying election mission personnel

Through a newly-established fund set up to diversify the regional composition of personnel on election observation missions, the ODIHR in 2002 could deploy a total of more than 120 experts from over 20 developing democracies as core-team members and long-term and short-term observers. This was made possible through generous contributions from Estonia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States totalling around €320,000.

ODIHR law reviews

In 2002 the ODIHR reviewed the following election laws:

- Draft Convention on Standards of Democratic Elections, voting Rights and Freedoms in the participating States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- Amendments to the Election Code of Kyrgyzstan
- Parliamentary Law of the Czech Republic
- Amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia adopted in the first reading on 7 May (together with the Venice Commission)
- Law on Political Parties of Kazakhstan adopted on 15 July
- Election Law for the 5 October 2002 Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Amendments to the Legislative Framework for Elections in the Republic of Montenegro/FRY
- Amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia adopted in July 2002 (together with the Venice Commission)

DEMOCRATIZATION

The ODIHR in 2002 placed a strong emphasis on continuing and increasing efforts to promote and assist in building democratic institutions by helping to strengthen administrative capacities, the judiciary, as well as Ombudsman and civil society institutions. Activities sought to facilitate exchanges of best practices and experience between participating States and to solidify gains made in democratic institution building, civil society and good governance as stressed in the Bucharest Ministerial Council Statement.

The ODIHR continued to stress implementation and follow-up to projects under the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed with participating States in Central Asia and the Caucasus, as prioritized in the Chairmanship-in-Office statement at the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Meeting and as welcomed in the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration.

Priorities for 2002 sought to further enhance the ODIHR's capacities to implement a large number of targeted programme activities and respond to the increasing demands of co-ordinating and working with OSCE missions and other structures. Democratization programme activities, co-operation and co-ordination with missions in Central Asia, the Caucasus and South Eastern Europe have been praised as a model by heads of mission from the region.

Democratization programming activities in 2002 continued to be sub-divided into two primary areas: longer-term, multi-year, institutional and capacity-building programmes; and shorter-term, high-impact projects, such as those originating from the Grassroots Project Fund. This two-pronged methodology proved a highly successful shift in outlook and approach to programme work.

The hallmark of ODIHR democratization activities has become the effort to maintain maximum flexibility and timeliness in all project work, to be able to respond rapidly to priority opportunities and issues. Even with their longer-term projects and pro-

gramme work, each ODIHR unit seeks to maintain a fresh approach to its work and activities. This is a more labour intensive approach to programming, as it requires activities to be planned very late in a project cycle, but often the results are worth the extra effort. By working with tight deadlines, last-minute developments can be fully factored into project work, special events can be built around new opportunities, and projects are seen by participants as responding to contemporary needs and issues.

The ODIHR's democratization activities were primarily conducted across five thematic fields of work: rule of law, civil society, gender equality, combating trafficking in human beings, and freedom of movement and migration. In October, a sixth thematic field of work was started: anti-terrorism. As per the 2001 Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme for Action, the ODIHR Anti-Terrorism Unit will seek to build awareness of human dimension issues in combating terrorism and will develop projects which fundamentally address factors engendering terrorism, in co-ordination with the Anti-Terrorism Unit at the Secretariat, to mainstream anti-terrorism issues into other OSCE programme activities.

During 2002, the ODIHR Democratization Section worked in more than 20 countries, implementing more than 100 projects, as well as a large number of projects directly implemented and/or administered by the ODIHR through the Anti-Trafficking Projects Fund, the Grassroots Democracy Programme and its anti-torture activities. Projects were conducted in co-ordination with OSCE field operations, with local partners and NGOs, as well as with a number of other international actors. The ODIHR conducted many projects at national and regional levels, in the Balkans, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and other areas of the OSCE region such as Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, providing a unique set of inter-related democratization activities which targeted specific developmental needs.

Co-operation with the European Commission

In 2002 the ODIHR continued close co-operation with the European Commission on implementing five joint programmes under the Commission's European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights:

- First Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Belarus 2000-2002
- Second Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia 2001-2003
- Regional Legislative Website for South Eastern Europe 2002-2003 (Legislationline)
- First Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building in the South Caucasus 2002-2004
- Mainstreaming and Empowering of Roma 2001-2003 (in co-operation with the Council of Europe)

These programmes underscore common goals and objectives shared by both organizations, making commitments to democracy and human rights one of the priorities in supporting transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

First joint EC-ODIHR democracy and human rights programme in Belarus completed

All seven projects under the joint European Commission-ODIHR democratization programme for Belarus were completed successfully in 2002. The programme projects were agreed upon with the Government of Belarus and implemented in close co-operation with the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk.

The **training project for political parties** aimed at preparing political parties for the recent electoral processes in the country, the parliamentary elections in 2000 and the September 2001 presidential elections. The project included, amongst others, workshops for opposition and government parties on how to prepare and conduct election campaigns, as well as computer courses. Over 170 members of different parties and their regional branches participated.

Another project connected the **European Humanities University to on-line facilities and libraries world wide**, providing students with 24-hour access to publications and journals. It contributed to exposing young people to a number of sources of information on political, social and cultural issues, which are unavailable in Belarus.

The programme also included the establishment of an international studies centre, the **Centre for European and Transatlantic Studies (CETAS)**, at the European Humanities University, analysing Belarus' position in modern world politics. Over 35 post-graduate students applied, of whom 16 were accepted. The Centre developed a curriculum, a research programme, an academic journal "Crossroads", published in Russian and English, as well as a newsletter. An international conference on the research project, "EU Enlargement and Consequences for Non-accession Countries of Eastern Europe", was held from 28 June to 1 July 2001 in Minsk.

In order to **support the development of an independent legal sector**, a series of 15 training seminars were organized across the whole country. The seminars targeted both experienced and less-experienced human rights workers from two NGOs, "Legal Assistance to Population" and the Belarusian Helsinki Committee. Nearly 400 participants attended the seminars. A handbook for public defenders was prepared in co-operation with these two NGOs and distributed at the seminars. Humanitarian assistance to victims of human rights violations was provided in the form of support for legal expenses and publication of materials about the disappearances of politicians in Belarus. Legal literature, including Codes and other regulations, were procured and provided to 31 regional offices of various human rights organizations to use in their legal clinic work. Together with the regional branches of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, mobile legal consultations in 13 provincial towns were organized, assisting approximately 250 people.

The project on **prison/pre-trial detention and tuberculosis management** was extremely successful in achieving multiple goals. Despite initial concerns, the project was very positively received by the Belarus Punishment Committee authorities, which offered access to detention centres for OSCE project personnel, the Red Cross and international penitentiary reform experts who work together with Belarusian experts on the revision of prison management guidelines on the treatment of prisoners, the medical aspects of human rights observance and proposals for legislative improvements for the penal code. A visit to the penitentiary system of Poland, assisted by Polish penitentiary reform experts, presented a working model of a successfully implemented prison reform and helped to establish direct contacts between the two institutions. The project concluded with a large conference in Minsk, including participants from all over the CIS region, on penitentiary medicine as a part of the rights of prisoners and preventive work in prisons.

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Two major events took place under a project focusing on **public institutions**: a conference on the concept of local self-government on 29 January 2002, and a conference on public opinion polls and public policy in Belarus on 8-9 February 2002. More than 100 participants from Belarus and neighbouring countries attended each of the conferences.

The programme's **dispute resolution project** targeted mainly academics, policy makers and analysts. On 8-9 October 2001, a group of six Belarusian governmental and non-governmental experts participated in a seminar on the OSCE's conflict-prevention functions in Kiev. A working group of experts was formed under this project in order to prepare a major regional round table on conflict prevention and peace-building, which was held in Minsk on 8-9 February 2002, hosting over 50 participants from the Government, academia, and non-government and international organizations.

The European Commission covered 70 per cent of the programme's total costs of €500,000; the remaining 30 per cent were covered by voluntary contributions from Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

A **follow-up programme**, ready to be launched in March 2002, was placed on hold due to the unclear situation of the OSCE presence in Belarus.

Second joint EC-ODIHR programme on Central Asia continued

In 2002, the second joint EC-ODIHR programme for advancing human rights and democratization in Central Asia continued to be implemented in four countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The programme is implemented in close co-operation with the OSCE field presences in the respective countries.

The programme has a regional focus but takes the particular needs of individual countries into account, covering two main themes: strengthening the rule of law by providing assistance to the reform of the region's penitentiary systems, human rights bodies and relevant legislation; and building capacity within civil society through human rights monitoring training and other assistance projects. Successful projects under the programme include:

- a **training programme in human rights monitoring and reporting**, which already reached over 600 human rights defenders and enabled them to report objectively and comprehensively on human rights in their respective countries;
- a **prison service training programme**, which addresses

issues of penitentiary reform and international standards for treatment of prisoners;

- a **civil society development programme**, which mainly targets civil society groups and government institutions to strengthen dialogue on a number of important issues such as: professional relations and co-operation between media, law enforcement and the court system; import and storage of radioactive waste; freedom of religion; rights of children; and the death penalty;
- a **legislative reform assistance programme**, which reviews compliance of domestic legislation with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- **assistance to national human rights institutions**: since the first joint programme, the establishment of national human rights institutions such as Ombudsman offices has been advocated and supported by the ODIHR. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan only recently decided to create Ombudsman institutions, while in Uzbekistan such an institution has already existed six years, with recently established regional sub-offices. The ODIHR facilitated training of Uzbek Ombudsperson personnel in human rights standards and handling of complaints.

The joint programme is implemented over the period 2001-2003 and will be concluded in March 2003. The European Commission covers 59 per cent of the total costs of €844,000, while the remaining 41 per cent are covered by extra-budgetary contributions from Canada, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

First joint EC-ODIHR programme in South Caucasus launched

The Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building, a three-year programme launched in March 2002, is the first co-operative endeavour of the European Commission and the ODIHR in the South Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). The main themes of the programme include regional aspects of conflict prevention and human rights advocacy, the promotion and implementation of the rule of law by reforming penitentiary systems, and the development of participatory approaches to civil society. The programme consists of three regional projects:

- **Reform of penitentiary systems and prison service training**: this project aims to upgrade and humanize penitentiary systems and institutions, train prison personnel in international human rights standards, and assist inmates in

acquiring knowledge about their rights. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Council of Europe.

- **Human rights monitoring and reporting training:** this project addresses the need for building capacity of local NGOs, particularly from the regions, to develop co-operation among local monitors and to prepare accurate and comprehensive reports.
- **Building NGO capacity to combat trafficking in human beings:** the purpose of this project is to develop strategies for prevention and awareness-raising among local NGOs for preventive work in co-operation with governments and international organizations active in the Caucasus which, with its frozen and open conflicts, and its strained economic situation, is a region of origin, transit and destination for trafficking.

The fourth project is designed specifically for Georgia:

- **Civic diplomacy:** the project focuses on two conflict areas, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and seeks to promote reconciliation and confidence between the populations of these regions.

Eighty per cent of the programme's total costs of €927,000 are covered by the European Commission. Voluntary contributions from Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom enable the ODIHR to cover the remaining 20 per cent.

Special ODIHR funds

Over the past few years, the ODIHR has established a number of funds targeting specific activities of the Office to improve and expand its ability to provide support to OSCE missions and their activities in the field and to promote awareness of OSCE commitments. These funds include:

- the Grassroots Democracy Projects Fund (see separate chapter)
- Anti-Torture Activities (see chapter "Rule of Law")
- the Anti-Trafficking Project Fund (see chapter "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings")
- the Fund for NGO Participation in OSCE Events (see chapter "Strengthening Civil Society")
- the Fund for Participation in Election Observations (see chapter "Elections")

Donor co-operation

The ODIHR expanded and consolidated its co-operation with donors among participating States through hosting a

number of visits to the ODIHR, frequent meetings at human dimension meetings and targeted requests for funding, knowing the interest of individual countries on specific issues. Such co-operation provided donors with better insight into the ODIHR's work and strategic planning, as well as its project conception, implementation and reporting cycles. The key factor in successful implementation of activities aimed at assisting participating States in fulfilment of their OSCE commitments was close co-operation of the ODIHR with the governments and civil society of both donor and recipient countries, as well as with OSCE field presences, which in many cases have taken a very active role as implementing partners.

Internship programme for young diplomats from Caucasus and Balkans

Within the framework of its capacity-building internship programme for young foreign service officials from the Caucasus and Central Asia, the ODIHR hosted several young diplomats with the aim of strengthening direct co-operation with the respective governments and increasing understanding of OSCE human dimension commitments. The interns, mostly officials working at the OSCE desk in their respective Ministries for Foreign Affairs, usually stay between one and four weeks in Warsaw, in order to become acquainted with the OSCE's human dimension concept and the ODIHR's work and expertise in this field.

For the first time, the internship programme was expanded this year to include young diplomats from South Eastern Europe. The first two interns from this region, two diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, worked with the ODIHR's Democratization and Election Sections and participated in the observation of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Central Asia: ODIHR-Danish strategic partnership programme

In 2002, the ODIHR and the Danish Government continued their long-term "Strategic Partnership Co-operation Programme for Central Asia", which was launched last year. The programme aims at building civil society capacity and strengthening local NGOs in order to prevent conflicts in this potentially volatile region. It focuses on migration issues and human rights reporting in the region. Two major Danish NGOs are involved in the programme, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Danish Refugee Council. Currently, the programme targets four Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

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RULE OF LAW

The concept of rule of law forms a cornerstone in the OSCE human rights framework. The notion of rule of law, as enshrined in major OSCE documents such as the 1990 Copenhagen Document, does not merely describe a formal legality, but also aims at justice based on the full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and human rights. Rule of law seeks to establish and entrench an institutional framework for democracy in participating States.

The ODIHR is engaged in a variety of technical assistance projects designed to foster respect for human rights within the context of the promotion of the rule of law. Projects in 2002 focused on the following areas:

- legal reform and legislative review projects in order to bring domestic laws into line with OSCE commitments and other recognized international standards
- support to the enhancement of legal education in the field of human rights by supporting law schools and legal clinics
- support and advice to national human rights institutions
- training for legal professionals
- prison reform
- anti-torture activities

In each of these areas the ODIHR seeks to co-operate and co-ordinate with other international organizations active in the field.

LEGAL REFORM

Seminar on judicial systems and human rights

More than 150 government representatives and international experts from Europe, Central Asia and North America gathered in Warsaw on 23-25 April to discuss how the protection of human rights can be improved through judicial reform. The 2002 OSCE Human Dimension Seminar was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the OSCE Chairmanship.

Participants stressed that substantial progress has been made in the OSCE area within the last decade, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. However, a number of issues of concern remain or have emerged recently, both in established democracies as well as in transition states. Among the challenges identified were limits to the independence of the judiciary in some participating States and structural shortcomings in the set-up of judicial systems that do not always provide the necessary checks and balances to the executive branch of power. Participants identified in particular the need to ensure judicial authorization for intrusive investigative measures, such as arrest, wire-tapping, house searches and others, in all OSCE participating States. The seminar also discussed ways to ensure effective access to justice for all parts of society, in particular minorities, the poor and the disadvantaged. A special side meeting during the seminar was devoted to access to justice by Roma and Sinti.

Another focus was the role of judicial systems in post-conflict situations. Participants stressed that there was a need to improve the contribution of the international community to help rebuild functioning judiciaries in post-conflict situations. In this context it was highlighted that the international community needs to ensure accountability in cases where it exercises authority, and that it is essential that the rebuilding of civil jurisdictions not be neglected. Participants also pointed to the fact that functioning judiciaries, on which both individuals and legal entities can rely, are not only of greatest importance for a democratic society and the protection of human rights, but also a precondition for economic stability.

A full report of the Seminar is available on the ODIHR website (www.osce.org/odihr/documents/reports/hds).

Promoting alternative sentencing in Uzbekistan

In March the ODIHR organized a seminar on alternatives to pre-trial detention and prison sentences jointly with the Constitutional Legal Policy Institute (COLPI) and the Academy of the Uzbek Ministry of Interior. The ODIHR supports non-custodial measures, in particular during the pre-trial

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phase and for petty crimes, as part of wider criminal justice reform efforts. Disproportionate punishment policies along with overcrowded prisons and overall poor prison conditions make effective implementation of non-custodial punishment urgently needed in Central Asia.

The seminar participants developed a set of recommendations on how existing legal provisions on alternative sentencing can be put into practice. The recommendations will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and other legislative bodies working on the liberalization of the Uzbek criminal law. Participants also agreed on an action plan for the training of prosecutors, judges, lawyers and probation officers. The seminar brought together local and international officials, experts and activists, and thus provided a forum for the exchange of experiences and good practices on non-custodial punishment measures.

This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from the Austrian Government.

Workshop on criminal justice reform in Tajikistan

On 18-19 April, the ODIHR organized a workshop in Dushanbe on criminal justice reform in Tajikistan. The workshop focused on how Tajikistan's international human rights obligations can be translated into national norms and practice. It constituted the third and conclusive part of the ODIHR legal reform project in Tajikistan.

The open discussions during the workshop concentrated on the changes that are necessary to bring the Tajik Criminal Procedure Code in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Tajikistan in 1999. The workshop resulted in the adoption of recommendations setting out steps for the reform of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The workshop was organized together with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan and the Governmental Commission on the implementation of international obligations in national legislation. Representatives of the Government and the presidential apparatus, representatives of the General Prosecutor's office, the police, other law enforcement bodies, parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, and several NGOs participated actively in the discussions.

This project was funded by extra-budgetary contributions from the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

Legislative Alert Programme

During 2002 the ODIHR continued to conduct assessments of draft legislation under its Legislative Alert Programme. In

each instance the Office provided a written assessment and then was involved in public discussions, often through round tables, on the draft legislation.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the ODIHR provided expert advice on a number of draft laws that were submitted to the Parliament before the summer recess, including the Ombudsman Law and the Law on Freedom of Assembly. Other reviews included one on the draft Law on Political Extremism, which highlighted a number of considerable concerns, and another on the Freedom of Religion Law.

In **Kazakhstan**, the ODIHR assessed draft amendments to legislation relating to the role of the Prosecutor's Office. The review highlighted shortcomings regarding the lack of judicial involvement in arrest and habeas corpus as well as intrusive investigative measures, such as house searches, wire-tapping and surveillance. Other laws reviewed by ODIHR experts included the Ombudsman Law, the draft Religion Law, and the Law on the Constitutional Court.

In **Uzbekistan**, the ODIHR evaluated the draft Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men. As a follow-up, a round table was jointly organized by the ODIHR, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, and UNDP on 27 May to discuss the draft. The National Human Rights Centre hosted the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Government, Parliament, University, various NGOs, and international organizations. The ODIHR expert emphasized the need to design an adequate enforcement strategy and to focus on those sectors where inequality is greatest, for example in employment. In addition, the ODIHR reviewed the Law on the Bar Association (Advokatura).

Other legislation assessed by ODIHR experts includes the draft anti-trafficking amendments to the Criminal Code of **Armenia** and **Georgia**, and the draft Law on Religious Organizations in **Belarus**.

The Government of the United Kingdom funded the Legislative Alert Programme through a voluntary contribution.

LEGAL EDUCATION

Legal support centre for women in Tajikistan

The ODIHR continued its assistance and support throughout 2002 to the legal clinic at the Russian Tajik Slavic University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. A Legal Clinic is a form of legal education where students have the opportunity to put into practice their legal knowledge through representing clients

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with legal problems or, as in this instance, through training non-lawyers on legal topics. The directors and students of the clinic received clinical legal education training as well as human rights training with a focus on gender and women's rights. The clinic is the first legal support centre in Tajikistan that provides legal education to non-lawyers, particularly in areas with predominately minority populations. The trainings on legal education on women's rights for non-lawyers are conducted in the Tajik, Russian and Uzbek languages and are aimed at graduate and high school students. ODIHR assistance to the clinic began in 2000, with the clinic beginning operations in 2001. Switzerland provided funding for this project through an extra-budgetary contribution.

Support for criminal legal clinic in Kyrgyzstan

In co-operation with the American Bar Association-Central and East European Law Initiative, the ODIHR continued its assistance to the Osh Criminal Legal Clinic in southern Kyrgyzstan. The clinic, which was established with support from the ODIHR in 2001, has an active caseload, giving students an opportunity to represent clients who are charged with a variety of crimes. This allows the students to gain valuable practical experience.

During the spring of 2002, the ODIHR conducted an expert assessment of the clinic in order to provide advice regarding its management and identify needs for future development. The expert also provided specific advice on international standards and human rights training as well as curriculum development. An additional workshop was conducted in the summer on interactive training techniques for the clinic's instructors and students as a follow-up to recommendations of the earlier expert assessment. The Government of Norway provided funding for this project through an extra-budgetary contribution.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

Georgia

Under its Anti-Torture Programme, the ODIHR provides ongoing assistance to the office of the Georgian Public Defender, the country's human rights Ombudsman, in the office's effort to combat police abuse of persons in custody. With the ODIHR's assistance, the Public Defender established a "rapid reaction programme" which will enable the office to monitor police stations on a permanent basis. An expert on long-term police monitoring from Bulgaria assessed the present approach and methodology and provided in-depth advice on international standards regarding ill-treatment and

police conduct. The United Kingdom funded this project through an extra-budgetary contribution.

Uzbekistan

An expert team went to Uzbekistan in November to assist the office of the Uzbek Human Rights Ombudsman in its continuing efforts to extend its mandate and independence, including by providing advice on how the office can increase its regional activities including through opening more regional offices. The assessment team also evaluated a new draft Ombudsman Law. In addition to training for the personnel of the Ombudsman's office, the expert team conducted a round table in order to inform and raise awareness among other governmental agencies of the Ombudsman's role. The European Commission provided funding for this project through an extra-budgetary contribution.

Kyrgyzstan

The ODIHR provided expert advice on the drafting of the Kyrgyz Ombudsman Law before it was passed by the Parliament in June. An ODIHR expert visited Kyrgyzstan twice, in August and October, to explore possible fields of co-operation between the ODIHR and the Ombudsman's office. As a first step, the ODIHR supported the production of printed materials for a one-day seminar on the role of the Ombudsman organized by UNDP in November. This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution of the United Kingdom.

TRAINING FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Conference on rule of law and human rights in Chechnya

In co-operation with the UNHCR, the ODIHR organized a workshop in Kislovodsk, Russia, on 29-30 May on the re-establishment of the rule of law and the protection of citizens' rights in Chechnya. Approximately 40 judges and lawyers from Chechnya and neighbouring regions discussed the processing of individual complaints of alleged human rights violations and improving co-operation between key institutions concerned with the protection of human rights. Also discussed was the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the new Criminal Procedure Code which entered into force in July.

Seminar on legislative changes for Chechen lawyers

As a follow-up to the May conference, the ODIHR, together with UNHCR and the Russian human rights centre "Memorial", organized a seminar on recent legislative changes in the Russian Federation for lawyers from Chechnya. The seminar,

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which took place on 23-26 October in Moscow, was the first in the series of similar seminars that are intended to provide training for all 90 members of the Chechen Bar Association.

The seminar programme focused on important recent developments in Russia's federal legislation, in particular with regard to social insurance and pension issues, the activity of



advocates, criminal procedure, judicial reform, civil procedure and labour disputes.

Discussions also touched upon procedures for applications to the European Court of Human Rights and how to utilize the jurisprudence of the European Human Rights Court and decisions of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation in legal practice. Prominent Russian lawyers trained the participants in public speaking techniques and members of "Memorial" explained how the work of human rights NGOs can be useful for participating Chechen lawyers.

Assistance to Judicial Training Centre in Kazakhstan

The ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Almaty and the American Bar Association-Central and East European Law Initiative, organized and conducted a "training-of-trainers" course on training methodology from 2 to 6 November in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Gathering potential future trainers for the Judicial Training Centre (JTC), the course focused on familiarizing the participants with modern and interactive teaching methods.

The ODIHR also funded a study visit of a selected group of Kazakh judges and potential future JTC trainers and lecturers to the Moscow Judicial Academy. The study trip offered additional training and education while enabling the JTC to establish and strengthen ties with the Moscow Judicial Acad-

emy to enhance future co-operation. These programmes were funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from the Government of Germany.

Training of trainers for professional training centres in Uzbekistan

In November, the ODIHR conducted a training course for trainers of various professional education centres in Uzbekistan. Among the participants were trainers from the Judicial Training Centre, General Prosecutor's training programme,

The ODIHR supports the reform of prison systems and the improvement of prison conditions

Ministry of Interior Academy, National Security Service training programme, and the Collegium of Advocates. The training focused on interactive training techniques and curriculum development. In addition, the sessions concentrated on human rights topics such as torture prevention. This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from the Government of Germany.

PRISON REFORM

Special meeting on prison reform

Being sent to a prison in many countries in transition amounts to a double punishment: not only are convicts deprived of their liberty, often they are also exposed to extremely poor, sometimes even life-threatening, conditions.

More than a decade after the collapse of Communism, the situation in a typical prison in many countries still looks grim: cells and colonies are overcrowded, hygiene standards are appalling, and there is a high incidence of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Consequently, innumerable prisoners do not live to see the day of their release. At times, tensions between inmates and insufficiently trained prison staff erupt in open rebellion.

Recognizing the urgent need for improvements, a number of OSCE countries have embarked on the enormous task of reforming their prison systems. The ODIHR supports this process with a programme of assistance projects whose goals are the demilitarization and democratization of penitentiary

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systems. As a part of this process some countries have already undertaken the transfer of authority over the prison system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice.

In the context of the on-going work in this area, a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, held in Vienna on 8-9 July, was devoted to the reform of prison systems in line with human rights standards. It gathered more than 180 representatives of governments and international NGO experts. The meeting was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Portuguese Chairmanship to examine steps taken by OSCE countries to reform their prison systems and to discuss measures to improve prison conditions in compliance with international human rights standards, as well as the role that NGOs can play in the monitoring of prisons and detention facilities.

The meeting succeeded in producing concrete recommendations for national programmes to implement the provisions included in international law and OSCE commitments, and to reflect best practices related to the reform of penitentiary systems including pre-trial detention facilities. It became clear that national approaches must be kept under constant review across the whole OSCE area, as even in many well-developed democracies there is a gap when it comes to implementing international prison standards.

The ODIHR also places a special focus on assisting OSCE countries to create effective national mechanisms to implement their prison-related commitments. Considerable emphasis is placed on increasing transparency and involving civil society in monitoring penitentiary facilities as a safeguard against human rights abuses. Given the struggling economies of many countries in transition, one of the key obstacles to prison reform is lack of resources. Yet, there is much that can be done without spending large amounts of money. During its seminars and training sessions the ODIHR emphasizes that lack of resources must not be used as an excuse for inaction. Low cost reforms are discussed such as clean prison cells, proper lighting, allowing more visits by relatives and changing the behaviours and attitudes of prison personnel.

While the meeting in Vienna generally acknowledged the need for reform, several participants emphasized that any reform should be accompanied by a novel approach to imprisonment itself. The ultimate goal, they agreed, should be to strictly limit the use of prison sanctions to the most serious crimes and real threats to public safety. Increasing the use of alternative sentencing will never make prisons superfluous, but it can solve many of the most burning problems in a cost-effective way.

For the past few years, the ODIHR has been carrying out large-scale training programmes for prison personnel in many OSCE countries. The projects conducted during 2002 are outlined below.

[Regional conference on penal reform in Central Asia](#)

In October the ODIHR organized a regional conference in Dushanbe on the transfer of the prison systems from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. The conference, hosted by the Tajik Ministry of Justice, was attended by high-ranking officials of the penitentiary and other related agencies from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The conference served as a forum for exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations, in particular with regard to the transfer processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. An additional training on practical implications of the transfer for the Kyrgyz authorities was conducted following the conference with Latvian and Russian experts serving as trainers. The conference was funded through extra-budgetary contributions of the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

[New prison service training project in Uzbekistan](#)

As the first step in a new prison service training project, the ODIHR sent a needs assessment mission to Uzbekistan from 22 to 28 March. With active assistance by the authorities, the ODIHR expert team visited various detention institutions throughout the country and met with the directors and employees of each institution. On the basis of the information gathered, the expert team agreed with the authorities on a specifically tailored action plan for future prison service training during the course of the year.

On 4-6 September, a human rights training course was conducted for the management and personnel of the women's prison in Tashkent. The training familiarized the participants with international standards related to prisons and the treatment of persons deprived of liberty. Issues relating specifically to the detention of women were highlighted, with the training providing participants a forum to review current approaches and to explore possible changes to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

This programme was funded through extra-budgetary contributions of the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

[Human rights training for prison personnel in Tajikistan](#)

The ODIHR held eight human rights training seminars in the Sughd region in northern Tajikistan, from 25 January to 2 February. All 240 prison personnel of two correctional

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colonies and two pre-trial detention centres participated. Using an interactive methodology, the training imparted a basic knowledge of human rights of specific relevance to detention facilities. The curriculum focused on the application of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the UN Convention Against Torture, to which Tajikistan is a party.

The seminars were carried out as part of the second phase of the ODIHR's prison service training project under the Memorandum of Understanding between the ODIHR and the Tajik Government. They were jointly implemented with the Presidential Executive Office and the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan. The trainers included experts from the ODIHR, the Presidential Executive Office and a local NGO.

As a follow-up, the ODIHR conducted a training in October specifically for the deputy directors and other higher ranking prison personnel at management level. The training provided an introduction to human rights and its relation to prison management and the daily work and responsibilities of those working in prisons. This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution of the United Kingdom.

Human rights training for prison staff in Kyrgyzstan

On 14 and 15 October, the ODIHR, Penal Reform International and the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyzstan conducted a human rights training seminar for senior prison staff in Bishkek. The participants welcomed the opportunity to improve their knowledge of international prison standards and agreed to increase efforts to implement these standards. The Deputy Chairman of Kyrgyzstan's prison administration encouraged the participants to be creative in improving conditions in their prisons, including by using relatively simple and cost-efficient measures that can have great effect. This project was funded through extra-budgetary contributions of the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

Workshop at women's prison in Azerbaijan

On 7-8 March, the ODIHR held a workshop with inmates and personnel of a women's prison in Baku, Azerbaijan, to discuss the application of international prison standards in daily practice. Participants openly discussed recent reforms in the penitentiary system in Azerbaijan, and the relevance of international prison rules and human rights standards to the current conditions in prison. Discussions stressed that prisoners in a democratic society remain citizens whose rights must be guaranteed. In this context, the transparency of the penitentiary system was considered particularly important. The two-day workshop was open to NGOs and the media. It was jointly organized with the

Azerbaijan Ministry of Justice and the Institute for Human Rights. The project was funded through a voluntary contribution of the United Kingdom.

Assistance to Azerbaijani prison personnel training centre

The ODIHR continued its assistance to the Azerbaijani penitentiary service by organizing a visit of a Polish training specialist to the prison personnel training academy of Azerbaijan. During the visit in March, which was organized as a follow-up to last year's study visit of Azerbaijani officials to Poland, the ODIHR expert discussed the training centre's curriculum and methodology. Due to Azerbaijan's recent accession to the Council of Europe, discussions focused in particular on how to provide practical training on the European Prison Rules. In addition, discussions focused on the recommendations developed by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. The project was funded through voluntary contributions of the United Kingdom and the European Commission.

Expert round table on prison reform in Armenia

The ODIHR continued its ongoing support to the reform of the prison system in Armenia in August by providing expert advice on the new draft concept for the reform of social and psychological rehabilitation services within prisons and pre-trial facilities. The goal and scope of social and psychological rehabilitation in a democratic society was also discussed at a round table, organized in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

In addition, the ODIHR provided advice on the imminent creation of a board of public monitors for the prison system. The establishment of a mechanism to monitor prisons by civil society emerged as a key recommendation from an anti-torture round table conducted by the ODIHR in Armenia last year, and from several OSCE human dimension meetings, including this year's Human Dimension Seminar on judicial systems and human rights.

This project was funded through extra-budgetary contributions of the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

Human rights training for pre-trial detention centre staff in Kazakhstan

Through a series of training courses, the ODIHR provided training on international human rights norms to all senior officials working in pre-trial detention centres in Kazakhstan. The courses were held in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Almaty and its implementing partners such as the Ministry of Interior, Penal Reform International and the Kazakhstani International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law.

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The seminars introduced staff to international standards and best practices through sessions focusing on detention conditions, availability of facilities for sick detainees, and detainee-staff relations. The trainers, prison and human rights experts from Sweden and Poland, emphasized that the humane treatment of detainees plays a key role in maintaining security in places of detention because good prison conditions, adequate and correct treatment of suspects, and respect for human rights in general, are key elements for improving the security of both detainees and staff members.

The particularly vulnerable situation of individuals was emphasized during the meeting. The experts also stressed the importance of the involvement of civil society to aid in the reform process. It was pointed out that increasing transparency was also in the interest of the staff members as it helped improve their performance and the public image of the system as a whole.

As a direct outcome of the seminars, agreement was reached to produce a resource manual including all relevant national legal provisions regulating pre-trial detention and comparing it with international standards. The manual will be distributed to all pre-trial detention staff. The prison reform programme in Kazakhstan was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution of the United Kingdom.

Support for Pavlodar Prison College

Under its prison reform activities, the ODIHR conducted a training course at the Pavlodar Prison College from 11 to 14 November. The training aimed at introducing a “street law course” into the curriculum of the Pavlodar Prison College. The goals of the programme were to introduce interactive teaching methodologies in practice, to organize effective internships in prison colonies for Pavlodar College students and to encourage minimizing the militarization of the College. This training event was one in a series of activities aimed at promoting prison reform in Kazakhstan in general, and contributing to the development of the Pavlodar College as main education centre for future prison staff. This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany.

ANTI-TORTURE ACTIVITIES

A focus of the ODIHR rule of law work remains anti-torture activities. In addition to the activities listed specifically under this section, the ODIHR work on prison reform, criminal law reform, penal reform, national human rights institu-

tions and a number of other categories all include a primary focus on preventing and combating torture.

The ODIHR’s anti-torture activities and projects in 2002 were funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Human rights training for law enforcement personnel in Tajikistan

A series of four training seminars for law enforcement personnel on human rights during arrest, detention and pre-trial investigation were conducted by the ODIHR in the Rasht Valley of Tajikistan (Gharm, Darband, Tajikabad, Jirgital, and Laysht districts), one of the most remote areas of the country. The participants of the seminars, which were completed at the end of June, included members of the prosecutor’s office, interior department, courts, independent lawyers, local governments, NGOs, and the media.

The programme was specifically devoted to the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The training focused on increasing knowledge of law enforcement personnel about rights of detainees, on contributing to the promotion of human rights by enabling the districts’ law enforcement bodies to monitor, protect and advocate human rights, as well as on reducing the abuse of human rights by law enforcement personnel in the long term. During the seminars, participants received materials and brochures, in both Russian and Tajik, which contained the main international legal instruments in the fields of human rights and torture prevention.

Other anti-torture activities

Following a recommendation of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the ODIHR has supported a local NGO in Armenia to monitor key penal institutions. The information gathered by this NGO will assist the ODIHR in its efforts to support Armenia’s initiative to create national monitoring boards.

In **Georgia**, the ODIHR sponsored a legal aid initiative by an NGO to provide legal representation to inmates and detainees of penal institutions for filing complaints on violations of their rights. The Office also supported a project by the Georgian NGO Empathy aimed at monitoring pre-trial detention facilities. The project includes psychological and medical monitoring of victims of ill-treatment.

In **Kazakhstan**, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior and the Association of Criminologists, organized a round table on 8 November dedicated to the identification of problem issues in police investigation to ensure

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compliance with international norms and standards and related to best practices in the OSCE area.

The ODIHR also conducted a workshop on the death penalty to take advantage of the momentum created by a call of the President of Kazakhstan for a moratorium on capital punishment.

The ODIHR and the OSCE Mission in **Tajikistan** supported a campaign against torture, including a pop music concert,



An ODIHR human rights training for prison personnel in Sugh, Tajikistan

entitled “Don’t keep silent, you could be the next”. Almost two thousand people gathered to listen to the ten most popular Tajik music bands, which called upon youth to fight together against torture. Participants received a pocketbook for torture victims, prepared by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan with support of the Tajik Governmental Commission on implementing human rights commitments and the General Prosecutor’s Office.

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COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The ODIHR carries out a wide variety of anti-trafficking activities in co-operation with OSCE participating States, NGOs and other international organizations.

The Office designs and implements anti-trafficking projects such as round table events and joint training initiatives including both NGO and governmental partners. With such projects the ODIHR seeks to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, including identification, referral and assistance.

As a means of supporting OSCE field missions in their efforts to prevent trafficking and to assist victims, the ODIHR administers an anti-trafficking project fund providing grants up to €25,000 to further develop OSCE field work and activities. The Fund has thus far supported seventeen projects in ten countries, as well as regional activities.

The ODIHR views it as a priority to work together with OSCE field missions to further develop and monitor coherent and integrated national anti-trafficking strategies in line with the Stability Pact Task Force Guidelines for National Plans of Action.

The ODIHR regularly exchanges information with the Vienna-based Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking, which is composed of interested OSCE delegations. Within this context, the ODIHR advocates for the further elaboration of OSCE commitments, which will ensure that the rights of trafficked persons are protected.

As a member of the Stability Pact Task Force's Co-ordination Team, the ODIHR consults with other agencies to set priorities and to define joint approaches to combating trafficking in South Eastern Europe.

Focus on countries of destination

As a follow-up to the October 2001 Berlin conference "Europe against trafficking in persons", the ODIHR made the combat of trafficking in destination countries a focus of its work in 2002. Among the activities initiated this year was an advocacy project, jointly implemented with Anti-Slavery International, which is aimed at transforming international and regional anti-trafficking standards into national legislation. The project focuses on countries of destination among the European Union. Furthermore, the ODIHR continued to assist OSCE participating States in their efforts to establish inclusive and efficient national referral mechanisms in co-operation with national actors and OSCE field missions. A handbook providing guidelines and principles on the development of such national referral mechanisms is currently in preparation.

Creating new partnerships to combat trafficking

The ODIHR seeks opportunities to create new partnerships to combat trafficking and to support new NGO initiatives, which are emerging at the regional and national levels within the OSCE region. In March, the ODIHR served on the review panel for the selection of NGO partners that will work with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) to implement its Regional Empowerment Initiative for Women (REIW) in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Serbia/FRY. The REIW seeks to empower women through job skills training and awareness raising on trafficking related issues. The ODIHR will continue to co-ordinate prevention efforts in the field with IREX and grassroots NGOs.

Training of women political leaders

The ODIHR provided support and expertise during a training seminar organized in March by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of its Central and Eastern Europe Regional Initiative. Held in Warsaw, Poland, the seminar brought together 22 women political activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro/FRY. Seminar participants were provided information on trafficking in the region and their governments' national plans of action. They participated in training sessions to enhance their political and advocacy skills in order to empower them to take on an active role to promote and further the fight against trafficking in the region. In addition, the ODIHR together with NDI hosted a reception for seminar participants to network with Polish experts and relevant government representatives.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Regional co-ordination meeting of OSCE anti-trafficking focal points

Within the framework of a regional co-ordination meeting of OSCE human dimension experts, organized by the ODIHR in Sarajevo in June, one of the working group sessions focused on anti-trafficking issues. The working group, which comprised representatives of all OSCE field missions on the Balkans, developed a set of concrete recommendations that were to be presented to high-level OSCE meetings such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw and the Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto. Besides the need to support the development of effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, participants identified training and legislative review efforts, also with a view to end impunity for those involved in trafficking, as main priorities.

South Eastern Europe: Monitoring responses to trafficking in human beings

A comprehensive report on trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe, published jointly by the ODIHR, UNICEF and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR), was presented to the public by ODIHR Director Stoudmann and HCHR Mary Robinson on 22 July in Geneva.

The report identifies the obstacles to adequate protection and support for victims, and includes a set of recommendations for improving current responses to trafficking in human beings. By mapping out the current situation and responses to trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe, it is hoped the report will provide support to governments, international organizations, and the media in their efforts to prevent and combat this phenomenon. The ODIHR will continue its collaboration with UNICEF and the UNHCHR in a follow-up project on policy development and monitoring, with the goal of establishing inclusive national referral mechanisms based on human rights standards. Funding for this project came from the Anti-Trafficking Project Fund.

Co-operation with the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings

The Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings provides a forum for the exchange of information and expertise among international organizations with the aim of enhancing co-ordination of anti-trafficking initiatives in the Balkan region. In 2002, the ODIHR assumed its new role as co-ordinator for issues relating to legislative review and law reform, together with the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Moreover, the ODIHR co-operates with the Council of Europe in advancing criminal law reform in South Eastern Europe and supports these efforts through exchange of expertise and complementary political lobbying.

Romania: NGO capacity-building workshop

On 2-4 June, the ODIHR organized a training workshop on networking for 12 Romanian NGOs active in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Participants discussed national and regional structures and developments in the fight against trafficking in human beings, and were trained in strategizing and networking techniques enabling them to identify future goals. Participants also elaborated a structure for a national referral mechanism in Romania. The project was funded through a voluntary contribution from the Government of the United States.

Moldovan Parliament adopts anti-trafficking legislation

The ODIHR provided expertise during the drafting process that led to the adoption in April by the Parliament of Moldova of a new Criminal Code that includes a wide range of anti-trafficking provisions. The new legislation will enter into force in January 2003. The ODIHR also assisted the Parliamentary working group in reviewing the Criminal Procedure Code. Parliament started discussions on this legislation in June 2002. This project creates the legislative basis for training and other anti-trafficking activities. Funding for this project was provided by a voluntary contribution by the Government of the United States.

Special session on anti-trafficking at OSCE human rights conference

A video documentary presenting the ordeal of a trafficked woman opened a day-long special session on trafficking in human beings at the 2002 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Discussions mainly focused on national referral mechanisms and victims' advocacy. Another issue discussed was the involvement of some international field mission personnel in trafficking. ODIHR Director Stoudmann called on the OSCE countries not to close their eyes, but to hold their citizens accountable for any involvement in criminal activities in their mission area. He stressed that training and codes of conduct are important, but without real accountability the international efforts to combat trafficking could not be credible.

Belarus and Ukraine: Support and training for anti-trafficking hotline

In 2002, the ODIHR continued its support of anti-trafficking hotlines in Belarus and Ukraine. The hotlines offer assis-

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tance to trafficked women and provide information on the rights of women moving abroad. The ODIHR supported the training of hotline consultants and facilitated contacts between Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian NGOs running anti-trafficking hotlines.

In Ukraine, the training included direct contacts with foreign embassies, which was expected to enable consultants to provide more accurate information and improve co-operation with regard to locating and assisting victims of trafficking. A voluntary contribution from the Swiss Government provided funding for the support of the Belarus hotline, while the project in Ukraine was funded by the Anti-Trafficking Project Fund.

Poland: Direct assistance to trafficking victims

The ODIHR supported the Polish NGO “La Strada” in providing direct assistance services to Polish and foreign victims of trafficking. The assistance includes shelter, assistance with replacing missing documents and the repatriation process, as well as referrals for legal aid and psychological counseling. In the second quarter of 2002, “La Strada” assisted 13 Polish citizens and 11 foreign nationals, of which nine returned to their countries of origin. This project was made possible by the Anti-Trafficking Project Fund.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT FUND

The ODIHR formally announced the establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Project Fund in mid-February 2001. The initiative to create the Fund was supported by a generous contribution from the United Kingdom. In addition, Cyprus, Germany, Monaco, Sweden and Switzerland have contributed to the Fund. The list below briefly summarizes the ODIHR and OSCE field mission projects that have received support from the Fund. The ODIHR continues to solicit project proposals from OSCE field missions, and supports OSCE field missions in designing and implementing anti-trafficking projects.

ALBANIA

Provision of Adequate Screening for Victims of Trafficking in Albania

- To establish a small team to assist Albanian National Police (ANP) with the screening of victims of trafficking, who have been returned to Albania, pending the development of an ANP team.
- To improve the capacity of the ANP in dealing with victims of trafficking.

- To ensure that all victims of trafficking are identified and properly informed about options available to them and their rights as citizens.

Project of the OSCE Presence in Albania in co-ordination with the Albanian National Police and IOM.

Women’s Rights and Anti-Trafficking Education

- To raise public awareness about the problem of violence against women including domestic violence and trafficking
 - To empower at-risk groups to know their rights and to work to prevent and to address violence
- Project of the OSCE Presence in Albania

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Enhancing Legal Protection for Trafficking Victims

- To establish a group of defence lawyers specialized in trafficking issues, a list of whom will be distributed to all courts for ex-officio appointments of lawyers.
- To develop guidelines for the protection of trafficked persons that will be distributed to all courts and prosecutor’s offices.

Project of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in co-operation with the International Human Rights Law Group (IHR LG).

Capacity Building Project for the Anti-Trafficking Network

- To build the capacity of the RING Network of NGOs.
- To facilitate the establishment of a secretariat for the RING Network and empower it to take on anti-trafficking advocacy work.
- To promote regional co-operation and approach.

Project of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in co-operation with the International Human Rights Law Group (IHR LG) and RING Network.

KAZAKHSTAN

Educational Programme on Trafficking in Women

- To disseminate the “Educational Programme on Trafficking in Women in Kazakhstan and Central Asia” and to conduct a training-of-trainers course for NGOs from Kazakhstan.
- To develop an educational legal programme on prevention of trafficking in women and children for law enforcement officials, border guards and judges from Kazakhstan.
- To conduct pilot trainings using the newly developed programme and to publish the programme in two languages (Kazakh and Russian).

Project of the OSCE Centre in Almaty in co-operation with the Crisis Centre for Women and Children.

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KYRGYZSTAN

Public Service Announcement (PSA) on Trafficking in Women

- To raise public awareness.
- To foster preventive measures via electronic mass media outlets.
- To provide relevant instructions and information to at-risk groups.
- To monitor the broadcast of the PSA, as well as to survey the audience on its impact and their awareness of trafficking and related issues. Project of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with Internews-Kyrgyzstan, IOM and the NGO Network "Women Can Do It", which was created by a project of the ODIHR Gender Unit.

POLAND

Direct Assistance for Return and Reintegration

- To provide direct services and material aid to victims of trafficking, reintegration and return assistance to victims returning to Poland or in transit to their country of origin.
- ODIHR project in co-operation with "La Strada" Poland.

TAJIKISTAN

Public Awareness Raising Campaign on Trafficking in Human Beings

- To raise awareness about trafficking among at-risk groups, their communities, leaders and representatives of mass media
- To increase the knowledge and training capacity of local NGOs on anti-trafficking issues

Project of the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan.

Training for Law Enforcement and Judicial Bodies

- To increase awareness on trafficking in human beings, including its causes and consequences, among law enforcement and judiciary.
- To increase their capacity to investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes while protecting the human rights of the victims.
- To enhance NGO-government co-operation.

Project of the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan in co-operation with the NGO Modar.

UKRAINE

Support and Training to Hotlines in Ukraine

- To support the Hotline "La Strada" in Kyiv
- To organize a training seminar for Hotline consultants in November
- To publish leaflets and brochures advertising the Hotlines for awareness raising

Project of the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in co-operation with "La Strada" Ukraine and six grassroots NGOs.

Support for Regional NGO Hotlines**Network**

- To provide effective support to victims of trafficking and their families.
- To collect reliable data on working and travelling abroad for dissemination.
- To increase public awareness about the problem of trafficking in Ukraine.

ODIHR project in co-operation with the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, "La Strada" Ukraine and six grassroots NGOs.

UZBEKISTAN

Anti-trafficking Research and Education Programme

- To interview victims of trafficking and at-risk women who are planning to migrate from Tashkent
- To conduct a study of advertisements
- To prepare a report based on the interviews and study of the advertisements

Project of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in co-operation with NGO SABO.

Anti-trafficking Research and Education Programme

- To research the existence and extent of trafficking in Samarkand oblast kursiv
- To develop awareness raising materials based on research findings
- To conduct a survey among advocates as well as to scrutinize the role of the mass media

Project of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in co-operation with NGO Ayol.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA/MONTENEGRO

Establishment of SOS Hotline and Referral System

- To establish a hotline that provides counselling and information services.
- To create a solid base for the referral mechanism that involves all relevant actors of the comprehensive victim protection programme.

ODIHR project in co-operation with the Women's Lobby of Montenegro, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Women's Safe House.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA/SERBIA

Strengthening the Co-operation of Police and NGOs to Enhance Victim Protection

- To promote co-ordinated co-operation between NGOs and law enforcement.
- To establish the foundation for a system of victim protection including referrals for shelter and other services, as well as the elaboration of a witness protection programme.

Project of the OSCE Mission to FRY in co-operation with NGO and police trainers from Hannover, Germany.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE – REGIONAL

Monitoring of Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings

- To develop common policy approaches to trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe based on international human rights standards and principles
- To regularly up-date and maintain an electronic database available on the web that presents an overview of the situation on trafficking in human beings, all involved actors and their contacts in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Romania
- To support and monitor under the framework of the Stability Pact Task Force the establishment and further development of efficient and inclusive national referral mechanisms addressing all target groups as defined in the UN Anti-Trafficking Protocol

ODIHR project in co-operation with UNHCHR and UNICEF.

Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe

- To map out the current situation, key actors, responses and anti-trafficking activities in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova.
- To up-date and expand the UNICEF inventory from August 2000 covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

ODIHR project in co-operation with UNHCHR and UNICEF.

GENDER EQUALITY

The equality of women and men is an integral part of sustainable democracy. Maintaining peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies in the OSCE region is central to the vision of the OSCE. One of the goals of the ODIHR, in order to contribute to fulfilling this vision, is to promote gender equality, meaning equal rights and opportunities for women and men to participate in and contribute to the democratic processes in OSCE participating States.

The ODIHR implements this by a two-pronged approach, that is integrating gender in all areas of its work, while simultaneously giving gender equality extra impetus by developing a portfolio of gender specific projects.

The ODIHR's gender project portfolio has been broadened considerably over the past two years, largely due to the success of well-targeted projects. The ODIHR gender projects follow a cyclical development pattern (i.e. consecutive activities are built on previous achievements and results, and successful projects have generated other related projects).

In 2002 the gender projects followed three main directions:

- Promoting women's equal rights and opportunities. This included projects on building training capacity, awareness raising on women's rights and monitoring women's human rights.
- Increasing women's role in decision-making. Projects aim at the development of effective networking, advocacy and lobbying, as well as training of trainers, training for leadership and political participation.
- Preventing and combating gender based violence, implemented through programmes for law enforcement personnel.

Equally, the ODIHR Gender Unit collaborates closely with other units to look at the implications of their work from a gender perspective, with the mainstreaming of ODIHR projects at all stages of project design and implementation.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Individual women (and men) in new democracies are still largely unaware of the domain of internationally accepted principles of human rights in general and women's rights in particular. Many are unfamiliar with the areas covered by international conventions and treaties, as well as recent developments concerning their national legislation for gender equality. As a result, many women do not claim their rights, in either the private or public sector. Simultaneously, law enforcement bodies such as the police or the judicial system also need to build an understanding of contemporary human rights concepts and the implications for their work.

Women's rights education for young women in Armenia

As part of an on-going ODIHR project to create a team of skilled gender trainers for universities and high schools, the ODIHR organized a second training programme in 2002. Ultimately this is hoped to promote the institutionalization of gender studies as an academic subject and to introduce academic courses on gender issues into the system of higher education.

Training focused on four main areas: methodology of gender studies, gender aspects in economy, gender approach in political and legal studies and women's political participation.

From September to December 2002 gender courses were organized in six universities and six high schools across Armenia involving more than 300 students. The feedback was extremely positive with many requests to integrate the courses permanently into university curricula. The project is the first step to integrate and mainstream gender education into the Armenian educational system, and is hoped to educate a new generation of gender aware and empowered women. This project was funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

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Building local training capacity on women's rights in Armenia

As part of the long-term objective of promoting women's participation in public life in Armenia and to develop gender sensitive government policies, the ODIHR has designed a programme to develop civil society, encourage women's active role in society and provide education and build training capacity on women's rights. To ensure a broadest dissemination of its objectives, the programme had a special focus on young women from outside the capital.

The selected 22 participants, mostly young students, journalists, teachers and doctors, took part in three intensive interactive training-of-trainers sessions on women's rights, gender equality, anti-trafficking and training skills. As a follow up, all participants conducted five one-day awareness-raising seminars in their home regions on women's rights and gender equality, motivating women to play an active role in society. These follow-up sessions allow the programme to expand and include new participants connecting different social actors and communities and stimulating their co-operation and networking. This project was funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

Monitoring women's rights in Uzbekistan

As part of the ODIHR's human rights monitoring and reporting programme, 25 representatives of NGOs and government bodies from Uzbekistan were trained on women's human rights and monitoring and on documentation of cases of discrimination. As a second phase of the programme, five proposals developed by the participants for concrete monitoring projects were selected for implementation. The projects covered issues such as women's rights during divorce procedures or women's right to select a spouse. This project was funded by the Governments of Denmark and Liechtenstein.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING

Due to a number of factors, women's representation in the economic and political arena has steeply declined in many transition states over the past decade. Women's organizations in these countries are increasingly taking action to promote the participation of women in leadership positions and politics. The ODIHR is committed to support these efforts through its leadership development projects in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In its projects the ODIHR has adopted a long-term strategic approach: to support civil society involvement in advocating for women's rights and gender equality, to increase the number of women at decision-making

levels, and to develop comprehensive policies on gender issues.

Promoting participation of women in public life in Central Asia and South Caucasus

In 2002, the ODIHR's large-scale programme on promoting participation of women in public life focused on Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. In all three countries, the ODIHR conducted initial training courses for small groups of predominantly younger women from rural areas. The courses focused on gender issues, leadership and lobbying skills, as well as on training techniques. This created pools of trained women who then went back to their home regions to disseminate their freshly acquired skills and train other women in turn. Through this built-in multiplier effect, the ODIHR gender programme has reached thousands of women in all three countries and thus contributed to the development of civil society and the ability of women to mobilize themselves for positive change. The programme has reached out beyond the urban centres, and in several cases sparked the development of a strong women's movement.

In **Azerbaijan**, a pool of 35 women from local governments and women NGOs were trained to pass on their skills and knowledge to several specific target groups, including members of local NGOs, teachers, lawyers, community leaders, young women, students and social workers. The programme also has resulted in the creation of a network of women from government structures, politicians and NGOs who promote women in leadership positions and lobby for gender sensitive policies.

In **Georgia**, the ODIHR has reached more than 2,400 women in 11 regions since the start of the programme in 2001. In 2002, the project focused on further improving the trainers' skills and knowledge, including project development skills.

In **Kazakhstan**, the programme focused on developing leadership skills and building capacity. A group of 24 women was trained in democratic NGO leadership, sharing responsibilities, co-operation, exchange of information and how to deal with the media. This was then followed by a series of 130 training workshops in 13 regions of Kazakhstan. Altogether more than 2,000 persons participated in the workshops. Following the agreement in December 2001 between the Kazakhstani government and NGOs on a long-term strategic plan to advance the role of women in public life, a workshop was organized to develop the framework of a two-year assistance project and to provide technical support and assistance to NGOs. As a follow-up, 22

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small-scale projects on women's leadership and active participation in society were developed by NGOs from across Kazakhstan.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, over 2,400 women from across the whole country have been trained since 2000. As a result of the project, a women's network was created which unites more than 300 women and is active in carrying out further training activities and raising awareness of gender issues. In order to establish co-operation between civil society and local authorities, specific training workshops were conducted for some 400 women working in local governments and village councils.

The programme was made possible by contributions from the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

NGO coalition building in Georgia

In 2002, the ODIHR continued its support for the women's NGO coalition which was established under the ODIHR's gender programme in Georgia in 2000. The coalition currently unites more than 45 women's NGOs which work together to lobby and advocate gender issues, strengthen women's leadership and increase the participation of women at the decision-making level.

With assistance from the ODIHR, the NGO coalition has succeeded in developing into a strong civil society body with a common strategy and joint mechanisms for addressing



women's rights, promoting gender equality and lobbying for equal opportunities.

PREVENTING AND COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Alongside the increasing attention to women's and gender issues, there is growing recognition of gender-based violence as an issue requiring urgent and immediate attention. Violence against women seriously inhibits women's ability to

fully participate in family and community life and in society more generally. Combating violence is important, not only to protect women's physical integrity, but to enable them to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Limiting women's expression of free will and discouraging their participation in social life ultimately undermines democracy, for it effectively excludes women – who comprise half the population – from democratic processes.

Special meeting on violence against women

A Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on violence against women took place on 18-19 March in Vienna, bringing together government representatives and international experts to discuss mechanisms to prevent and combat violence against women in all its forms.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Hina Jilani, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, who stressed the need to address the attitudes that lead to gender discrimination. States should recognize that perpetrators of violence could often be found within the victims' families. Ms. Jilani mentioned honour killings and forced marriages as being among the most pernicious examples. Human rights should be placed above religious precepts and cultural norms, and states should end impunity. She proposed to bring this issue "into the fold of constitutional rights".

In three working groups, the 200 participants from throughout the OSCE area discussed domestic violence, violence against women in the community, and violence in conflict situations. In the session on domestic violence, participants

The ODIHR implements a wide range of training programmes for women.

stressed the importance of a positive role of the police in dealing with cases of violence against women, as well as the need to raise awareness among the judiciary and to involve medical and social centres. The discussion on community violence focused on the costs and repercussions of sexual harassment at the work place and on ways to prevent it. In the working group devoted to post-conflict situations, Ms. Julia Baly from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia described the mechanisms for protecting the identity of women who have witnessed war crimes such as rape. Criticism was expressed about the exclusion of women from peace talks. According to some participants,

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the role of women as brokers of peace was “grossly underestimated”.

The meeting ended with a broad consensus that the OSCE participating States, OSCE bodies and the international community should step up their efforts to prevent and combat violence against women, in particular by monitoring the situation, developing or improving relevant legislation, conducting training, and raising awareness. The final report of the meeting is available on the ODIHR website at www.osce.org/odihr.

Training for law enforcement on violence against women in Azerbaijan

As part of an on-going project to raise awareness of violence against women and women's rights, the ODIHR conducted a series of training workshops for law enforcement personnel in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Some 60 Police Academy teachers, prosecutors and judges participated in the workshops which succeeded in raising awareness of the fact that domestic violence is not a private matter and should be treated as a punishable crime. Discussions also focused on co-operation with NGOs, establishing shelters, legislative measures, and mechanisms to combat violence. It was recommended to include a chapter on women's rights and violence against women in the Police Academy's human rights curricula and to organize further training courses for law enforcement personnel. The project was funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

range of project activities, including in the fields of prison reform, assistance to national human rights institutions, legislative review and legal aid programmes, human rights training, internally displaced persons, grassroots democracy projects, and anti-trafficking projects.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Following the adoption in 2001 of the OSCE Gender Action Plan (which established the framework for gender-related activities within OSCE institutions, field missions, and the Secretariat), the ODIHR has expanded its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into its democratization and election programmes. Each of the ODIHR's sections and units has developed or adapted its projects and other activities with this priority in mind.

The ODIHR's Election Section has developed, tested and begun to implement a methodology for including gender issues in its election observation activities. The Monitoring Unit works to keep the human rights of women on the OSCE's political agenda by making gender an explicit issue in human dimension meetings and by including gender concerns in talking points for high-level bilateral consultations by the OSCE Chairmanship. The ODIHR's Democratization Section has mainstreamed gender components into a broad

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT/MIGRATION

In 2002 the work of the migration unit concentrated on three major thematic areas: border security and human rights, cross-border co-operation, and freedom of movement and choice of place of residence.

BORDER SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union a number of crucial changes took place in the region. One such change is that the internal USSR administrative borders have become transformed into international borders. A far greater number of persons are now crossing these borders than ever before, including an ever-growing number of persons from outside the region. In connection with this development, the role of border guards and law enforcement officials has changed dramatically, not only because of the nature of the migration flows, but also because of new obligations that states of Eastern Europe and Central Asia have undertaken by acceding to international human rights conventions. While during the Soviet period the main task of border guards was restraining population movements outward and being a first line of military defense, now they are required to focus on assessing whom to let in.

It is in order to meet the challenges posed by the new situation as well to contribute to the OSCE's overall work on combating terrorism in one of its priority areas, border security, that the ODIHR has conducted a number of projects in the sphere of assistance to border services. In this respect, the experience and expertise of border services of countries of Central Europe, which became both professional and demilitarized in the recent past, was found particularly applicable to the challenges facing countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Successful co-operation with Azerbaijani border service continued

Azerbaijan was the first state in the Southern Caucasus to actively launch the reform of its border service. The first step was the establishment of a Border Inspection Training Centre to train border officials with skills. The Centre aimed at training a hundred border officials with skills and knowledge to control cross-border population movements. At the same time the authorities prepared a multi-year programme aiming at transformation of border troops to a semi-civilian

police-type institution, where most of the staff will be professional border guards and not draftees or non-commissioned officers any more. Recently the border service, became an independent institution under the direct supervision of the Azerbaijani President.

The ODIHR programme on assistance to the border service of Azerbaijan has been designed to respond to the current needs of the Azerbaijani side, and has followed two main directions: exchange of experience and expertise on institutional reform of the border service, and development of domestic training capacities. In this regard, through 2001 top Azerbaijani border officials were introduced to the Polish experience, policies and practices of border controls, and a Polish expert on curriculum development went to Baku to assist with developing training programmes for the Baku Border Inspection Centre.

In 2002, the ODIHR focused on support for bilateral co-operation and exchange of information between the Polish and Azerbaijani border services. Thus, with the support from the ODIHR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in Baku, in May 2002 the Commandant-in-chief of the border service of Azerbaijan paid a visit to Poland to discuss practical issues of bilateral co-operation with his Polish counterpart. The delegation also visited Warsaw airport, a checkpoint on the Polish-Russian border, and the Polish Training Centre for Border Guards in Ketrzyn. An agreement on exchange of information between the Polish and Azerbaijani border services is expected to be signed soon.

In view of the urgent need for well-educated professional border officials to promote institutional reform from above, a group of 15 mid-ranking border officials from Azerbaijan, among them five women, came to Poland in October for a one-year training course. The course at the Ketrzyn Training Centre includes lectures on communication, computer sciences, general human sciences, control of border crossing (visa and readmission, border control and identification techniques), border protection (operational activities, emergency situations, etc.) as well as practical work at the checkpoints.

The project was supported by voluntary contributions from the Governments of Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

Assistance to training of border services of Central Asia

In September-October, the ODIHR organized a regional training seminar for border guards in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in co-operation with the Regional Centre for Migration and

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Refugee Issues and the Kazakhstani border service, and with support of the International Organization for Migration. Five Kyrgyz and nine Tajik border service officers joined



their Kazakh colleagues in Almaty for training on the issues of border and immigration control, international law and human rights standards. An expert from the Czech border police service informed the participants on the experience of the Czech Republic with regards to democratization and professionalization of the country's border service.

The officers of the Kyrgyz border service had previously benefited from ODIHR-provided training, both in Poland and in Kyrgyzstan. One of the key recommendations made by the ODIHR at the time was implemented recently with the transformation of the Kyrgyz border service into an independent governmental agency.

The implementation of the project was made possible due to a voluntary contribution by the Government of Switzerland.

CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

After the fall of the Iron Curtain and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Newly Independent States of Eastern Europe and Central Asia found themselves facing new challenges of coping with mass-scale population movements within and from outside of the region. This represented a drastic change from the controlled and limited movements during the Soviet era. The multi-faceted challenges included, among others, humanitarian emergencies, managing irregular migration, safeguarding human rights of migrants, and issuing travel documents. Since immigration is an issue that confronts a number of OSCE participating States, many

countries found that international co-operation and sharing of information is necessary to devise effective and human immigration policies and legislation. Conversely, lack of reliable information and failure to share information could lead to tensions, human rights violations such as expressions of intolerance towards foreigners, and even conflict.

ODIHR programmes as a framework for exchange: General Elchin Guliyev (right), Commandant-in-chief of the Azerbaijani Border Service visits the Training Centre for Border Guards in Ketrzyn, Poland.

Workshop on exchange of migration-related information

The ODIHR and IOM organized an international workshop in Prague, Czech Republic, on 3-5 June to facilitate the exchange of experience between the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia on models of organizational structures in migration management and on collecting and sharing migration-related information. Among the participants were high-ranking officials from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The meeting was a follow-up event to the workshop on cross-border co-operation and development of migration legislation held in October 2001 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where the Czech and Slovak Republics' experiences of bilateral co-operation after the dissolution of the former Czechoslovakia were discussed. This discussion triggered the interest of many officials from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to move towards a co-operative inter-state approach in migration management.

The Prague workshop addressed responsibilities and co-ordination of various governmental agencies involved in migration management as well as issues related to collecting and exchanging relevant and accurate migration data on a national and regional level, a key aspect in developing effective co-operation. Officials and experts from North America, and Central and Western Europe informed participants of their experiences with existing co-operation mechanisms in their regions. It was discussed how mutually compatible information could best be shared and used by states in developing policies and legislation. The presenters underlined the necessity to find a balance between privacy of information, respect for human rights and national security.

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The programme also included a visit to the Immigration and Alien Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic which provided the participants with first-hand experience of the functioning of a modern migration management system. The ODIHR's work on issues of cross-border co-operation was made possible by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Denmark.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND CHOICE OF PLACE OF RESIDENCE

In the last few years the ODIHR has been focusing on assisting a number of states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to move away from the Soviet-era *propiska* system to population registration systems that guarantee freedom of movement and choice of place of residence. This move is pre-requisite for transition to democracy given that the *propiska* system served as an instrument for state control over internal migration and tied a number of political, social and economic rights to a particular state-approved place of residence.

The Newly Independent States also inherited a specific registration system for foreigners from the Soviet Union. This system requires any foreigner coming to a country, even for a short period of time, to register with the authorities within 3-5 days after arrival. While the registration process is rather complicated and very time consuming, violation of this requirement is considered to be an administrative offence and is punished by a fine.

In view of the enormous complexity of the issue of registration in the post-Soviet region, the ODIHR initiated and carried out round-table discussions in Ukraine (Kyiv, 1998), Armenia (Yerevan, 1999), Kazakhstan (Almaty, 2000), and Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 1999). The round tables fostered public support for reform, primarily in the human rights community and the media, and kicked off a dialogue on the issue with government officials and parliamentarians. Currently, the ODIHR Migration Unit is carrying out projects on the reform of the *propiska* system in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. These projects were made possible thanks to a voluntary contribution by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Armenia

This fall, the Parliament of Armenia passed a package of laws on registration of permanent residents that will bring about a move to a registration system in line with international standards. The ODIHR provided expertise during the drafting of the reform package and will continue to offer assistance in the preparation of relevant by-laws and regulations until the new legislation will be implemented.

Kyrgyzstan

The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan recently passed a Law on Internal Migration which includes provisions for registration of citizens and permanent residents that comply with OSCE commitments on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence. The Law was developed by a working group chaired by the Regional Centre for Migration and Refugee Issues, a Bishkek-based NGO. The ODIHR supported the drafting process and provided expertise. In 2003 the ODIHR plans to assist the Kyrgyz Government with the development of the necessary by-laws and regulations.

Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the pioneers among the countries of the former Soviet Union to abolish registration requirements for foreigners. At the same time, significant progress has been made in developing the legislative basis for a new system of internal registration of citizens and permanent residents, including a number of draft laws which are under discussion in the Parliament.

Under the ODIHR programme on the reform of the civil registration system, implemented in close co-operation with the presidential administration, a working group composed of representatives of various government institutions was created in 2001 to develop the legislative framework for the new registration system. As part of the programme, the ODIHR organized or co-funded training visits for the working group members to Denmark, Moldova and the Netherlands to provide them with first-hand information on international standards and best practices. In 2002 the programme focused on studying domestic best practices, in particular the positive experience of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in registering formerly deported Crimean Tatars who returned to the peninsula in large numbers during the 1990s. A round table for Ukrainian government officials was organized in September in Yalta, Crimea. The participants of the round table also discussed how the system of registering foreigners entering Ukraine at the border has been working since its introduction in 2001, concluding that the abolition of this requirement has not led to any security problems.

Regional: Russian Federation, Belarus and Central Asia

On 11-12 July the ODIHR and the Regional Centre for Migration and Refugee Issues (RCMRI), a Bishkek-based NGO working in Central Asia, organized a round table on registration of foreigners in the Russian Federation, Belarus and the countries of Central Asia. The round table, which took place in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, discussed a study prepared by the RCMRI on the issue and explored ways to establish procedures for registration of foreigners that take

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into account human rights standards, security problems and illegal migration risks.

The participants agreed to organize an expert meeting that would develop a model registration system and to develop a strategy to harmonize registration requirements in the region. In order to raise awareness on existing registration requirements in the region, the RCMRI was tasked to develop information leaflets which will be distributed at embassies, airports, railway stations, border checkpoints and hotels. The round table was supported through a voluntary contribution by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Legal status of internally displaced persons in Southern Caucasus

In February, the ODIHR organized round tables on the legal status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Baku, Azerbaijan, in co-operation with the Brookings Institution-CUNY Project on Internal Displacement and the OSCE presences in Georgia and Azerbaijan.

With the two round tables, the ODIHR concluded a project aimed at reviewing compliance of domestic legislation in the region with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and at developing recommendations on how to improve the normative frameworks for the protection of IDPs. The reviews were conducted by two local NGOs, the Georgian Young Lawyers Association and the Centre for Legal and Economic Education of Azerbaijan.

For Georgia, recommendations included the clarification and amendment of existing legislation on IDPs, in particular with regard to the right to own property, freedom of choice of residence, registration, and benefits. Key recommendations for Azerbaijan highlighted the need to elaborate and adopt separate laws on refugees and on IDPs, in conformity with international standards, which should replace the existing single law on the Status of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons. In addition, it was recommended to change the definition of IDPs in the relevant legislation to include those affected by generalized violence and violations of human rights, and to adopt new legislation on states of emergency and on allowing full participation of women IDPs in the planning and distribution of foodstuffs, industrial goods, medicines and accommodation.

The legal reviews, the first ever prepared in the South Caucasus, will serve as a basis for future discussions on improvement of legislation between governmental agencies, NGOs, and the international community, including OSCE offices in the South Caucasus. In Armenia, regular meetings

on this issue are already taking place. The reviews will soon be published by the American Society for International Law and the Brookings Institution-CUNY Project on Internal Displacement.

The implementation of the project was made possible due to a voluntary contribution by the Government of Canada.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The strengthening of civil society in countries in transition has always been a main focus of the ODIHR's democratization activities. Support for civil society actors has not just been intended to bring about democracy as such but, more importantly, to ensure its viability. In this spirit, the ODIHR seeks to establish a constructive dialogue, where needed, between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government or state representatives on legislation affecting civil society and on important human rights issues. In post-conflict areas, the ODIHR brings together actors from the different parties involved in order to support reconciliation efforts. In addition it builds public awareness of national human rights provisions through support of educational radio programmes. It also organizes training seminars enhancing the capacity of domestic human rights defenders. Finally, the ODIHR monitors developments in the field of NGO legislation that might hamper the healthy growth of civil society and facilitates the participation of NGOs in major OSCE events such as Summits, Review Conferences or Human Dimension Meetings and Seminars.

NGO-Government round tables in Kazakhstan

In 2002 the ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE Centre in Almaty, organized a series of three NGO-Government meetings aimed at establishing dialogue and building bridges between government officials and representatives of the civil society sector.

The first of this series was a round table held on 20 March in Astana, co-organized with the Commission on Human Rights under the President of Kazakhstan. Graduates of an ODIHR-run Human Rights Training Programme (see below) presented the results of their human rights monitoring projects to the relevant authorities and ministries. In addition to being a test-case for NGOs in presenting their first monitoring reports, the round table was a learning experience for NGOs and government officials in seeking to build a constructive relationship in dealing with matters of mutual concern.

On 16 May, a second round table took place in Shymkent, southern Kazakhstan, on confessional security and observance of human rights. The results of an ODIHR-funded monitoring report by the Sociological Resource Centre was used as a working document. Representatives from government agencies, law enforcement bodies, experts and local NGOs gathered to review the situation in the region regarding the observance of fundamental human rights, particularly those related to the activities of different religious associations. Particular attention was devoted to promoting confessional tolerance and dialogue in the south of Kazakhstan. As a result of the meeting a number of recommendations were agreed upon such as providing religious services in prison, placing state supervision of religious organizations on hold as well as organizing a follow-up meeting in 2003 (see also the section on freedom of religion under "Monitoring and Support for Implementation").

Finally, on 30 September and 1 October, a two-day international conference on the abolition of the death penalty in Kazakhstan took place in Almaty. This meeting was attended by senior officials from the Government and the judiciary, Ombudsman's office and penitentiary system, and resulted in a public commitment to continue work on the abolition of the death penalty, to seek to diminish the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty as well as to launch a large public awareness campaign on the issue (see also the Chapter "Monitoring and Support for Implementation").

The civil society assistance project forms part of the joint ODIHR-European Commission programme on Central Asia and is co-funded with an extra-budgetary contribution from the Government of Canada.

Civic Diplomacy involving children in Moldova

This year has seen the implementation of the ODIHR's first civic diplomacy project in Moldova. The concept of "civic diplomacy" aims at bringing together actors from rival communities, typically in post-conflict areas, in support of reconciliation efforts.

In Moldova, the ODIHR supported the activities of Local Youth and Children Councils (LYCCs) from 30 different communities, including from the separatist Transdnestr region. The project includes holding elections of the LYCCs followed by a training for 350 LYCC members over a nine-month period in order to enable them to carry out their own projects. Over 18,000 children have participated in seminars on electoral education and 12,249 votes have been cast in the elections. In total, the project involved 51 schools from the 30 targeted communities.

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The 350 newly elected LYCC leaders were trained in four five-day courses on democracy and human rights, communication and conflict resolution, advocacy, teamwork, project writing and management, and fundraising. The small projects subsequently devised and implemented by the LYCCs ranged from children's rights education and a radio show on community solidarity to youth participation in local policy development and environmental and health concerns. In view of the encouraging results of this project, the ODIHR is currently developing a similar civic diplomacy project in Georgia.

The ODIHR's contribution to the Civic Diplomacy Project in Moldova was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the Government of the United Kingdom and was carried out by the European Youth Exchange Association and the Centre for



Information and Documentation in Children's Rights in Moldova (CICDR), with the additional support from Soros Foundation Moldova, the US Embassy in Moldova and UNICEF.

Public awareness radio talk shows on human rights in Azerbaijan and Georgia

The ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE presences in Baku and Tbilisi and in partnership with the BBC World Service, launched its first series of radio talk shows in the South Caucasus in 2002.

The project typically consisted of 25 programmes (7-10 minutes each) and eight talk shows of one hour each. Two or three programmes were broadcast throughout the week providing background information on topical issues, culminating in a call-in radio talk show at the end of the week. Due to the enormous interest shown by the audience, it was decided to run the talk shows twice a week.

In Georgia, the talk shows have dealt with discrimination against religious minorities, prevention of torture, rehabilita-

tion of juvenile offenders, reform of penitentiary institutions, corruption in law enforcement agencies, integration of ethnic minorities in society, the right of return of the deported Meskhetian population and the problem of street children. In Azerbaijan, the radio talk shows have thus far dealt with juvenile justice, prison reform, gender issues, political prisoners, torture, the rights of disabled Karabakh war veterans and the Naradran events. The project was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the Government of Norway.

Training on human rights monitoring and reporting in Central Asia and South Caucasus

Following a successful pilot project in Uzbekistan in 2000, the ODIHR's human rights monitoring and reporting training programme was expanded in 2001 to include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. During 2002, the ODIHR further expanded the programme to include Georgia and Tajikistan, bringing the total of countries involved to

Through radio talk shows the ODIHR raises awareness of human rights issues

seven participating States. The aim of the programme is to develop practical skills in monitoring and reporting, as well as increasing contacts and networking among local human rights activists.

The training was conducted by expert trainers from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and implemented in close co-operation with respective OSCE field presences. Each training programme consisted of three five-day training sessions for up to 25 representatives of NGOs and government institutions, which was then followed by the elaboration and refining of proposals for monitoring exercises. Up to five monitoring exercises in each country were supported by the ODIHR with modest funding. The supported monitoring exercises range from monitoring the right to fair trial and respect for procedural norms in Kazakhstan to reporting on the situation of the freedom of the press in Azerbaijan.

The South Caucasus part of the training programme forms part of the joint ODIHR-European Commission programme on the Caucasus and is also co-funded by the Government of Italy. The training in Central Asia is funded in part by the joint ODIHR-European Commission programme on Central Asia as well as from an extra-budgetary contribution from the Governments of Denmark and the United States.

FOCUS ON SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Within the framework of its regional focus on South Eastern Europe, the ODIHR supports confidence building, reconciliation and stabilization processes throughout this region. The Office particularly concentrates on enhancing democratization processes, institution building, human rights and the rule of law.

The programme load, scope of work and demand from host countries and partners for co-ordination and implementation have rapidly developed and increased in both sophistication and amount, resulting in some 35 projects being implemented throughout the region in the years 2001 and 2002. Moreover, important political processes were enhanced and improved through ODIHR expertise, advice to governments and consultation with other implementing agencies and partners.

To enhance efficiency and create synergies and co-ordination between the OSCE missions and institutions in the region, the ODIHR has adopted a co-ordinating role within the OSCE on all human dimension issues.

Regional human dimension co-ordination meetings

In 2002, the ODIHR initiated a series of regional co-ordination meetings in South Eastern Europe to bring together senior and working level representatives of OSCE missions, institutions and the Secretariat to discuss and identify strategic approaches to regional and cross-boundary human dimension priorities and issues.

The objectives of the regional co-ordination meetings were to initiate a strategic process where the OSCE can establish mechanisms to consolidate lessons learned, continuity and institutional memory; to enhance regional development through cross-boundary co-ordination and co-operation; to enhance the capacity of each Mission through exchange of expertise; to assist heads of missions and institutions in strate-

gic planning through concrete recommendations; and to identify how the organization should evolve to maximize output.

Under the new co-ordination process, working groups were established on human dimension issues such as police reform, judicial reform, anti-trafficking, prison reform, elections, local governance and programme management on questions relating to human dimension issues. Officials from each of the field missions in South Eastern Europe participated actively in these working groups.

During this year, four co-ordination meetings took place: in Belgrade (April), Sarajevo (June), Pristina (October) and at a senior level in Warsaw in September on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, during which many delegations expressed their strong support for the co-ordination initiative.

In addition, several expert meetings discussed and co-ordinated approaches and activities on specific human dimension issues, including local governance, an OSCE online database for human dimension documents, and trial monitoring. The regional co-ordination project is financed by a contribution from the Government of Norway.

Prison reform programme

The ODIHR continued its ongoing support to the reform of prison services of South Eastern Europe with an emphasis on the training of prison staff and the exchange of expertise and information within the region.

Under the programme, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe jointly visited Montenegro/FRY in April to examine the management and operation of prisons in the Republic and to offer a set of concrete and practical recommendations, both to the Montenegrin authorities and the international community, for future reform activities.

In addition, the ODIHR has worked on the establishment of prison service training centres in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The staff selected to run the new Montenegrin training centre was trained at the Croatian Prison Training Centre near Zagreb, reinforcing the relationship between the two services developed in previous years. The new Macedonian Prison Service Training Centre near Skopje was opened in late 2002 with the assistance of the ODIHR and the Swedish Prison Service.

Also in late 2002, the ODIHR organized a meeting of the Ministers of Justice from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia/FRY, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Mace-

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donia, and Slovenia to discuss the treatment of long-term prisoners in light of the recent abolition of the death penalty in many of these republics. This meeting, organized in partnership with the Council of Europe, the OSCE's Office in Podgorica, and the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, provided the Ministers with an excellent opportunity to discuss best practices and share strategies and experiences on this important issue.

The prison reform programme is financed by contributions from the Governments of Austria, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Legislationline

Legislationline (www.legislationline.org), a free-of-charge legislative online database designed to provide easy access to international and national legislation related to OSCE human dimension commitments, was officially launched in 2002 after an earlier pilot version had been replaced.

Legislationline was created as a "library without walls" to help legislators and governments, particularly in South Eastern Europe, to access information that would otherwise be difficult to locate and obtain. The database thus serves as a useful drafting tool and source of inspiration for legislators and other actors involved in legislative processes. Legislationline was not created as a search engine scanning the Internet, but as a self-contained database designed for the needs of law drafters with only basic knowledge of the Internet. Furthermore, unlike conventional databases, Legislationline provides an overview of legislation through the prism of particular human rights issues and topics, as opposed to a mere collection of legislation.

In 2002, Legislationline went through a series of major technical and conceptual improvements. Under the new format, each web page contains brief introductory texts as well as links to specific documents (reports, legal opinions, law reviews, etc), searchable domestic databases or non-governmental and governmental websites with additional background information. Legislationline also provides basic factual information on OSCE countries' legal systems, constitutional frameworks and systems of government. In addition, the homepage features a news section with links to press releases, cited documents or judgements. This section is updated on a daily basis. Users may sign up to the Legislationline mailing list, a monthly free-of-charge service informing subscribers about new features and data on Legislationline together with succinct references to the most recent domestic and international legal developments.

Since its inception, the project has received voluntary contributions from the Austrian and Norwegian Governments

and is being expanded throughout 2002-2003 with financial support from the European Commission.

Crisis management workshops in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The 2001 crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia exposed a critical lack of communication and confidence-building mechanisms between, on the one side, the police and the army, and on the other side mayors of villages and towns. In June, July and August of 2001, the ODIHR implemented a series of workshops aimed at discussing the respective roles, channels of contact and lines of authorities of all parties in crisis situations. The workshops also examined the experiences of other countries and regions as well as applicable international standards and the role and mandate of international organizations in a crisis.

During 2002, in order to capitalize on the momentum created by the 2001 workshops, the ODIHR, together with the local authorities and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, organized a series of workshops and assessed the structures and capabilities of the local authorities to deal with man-made and natural catastrophes. The project aimed at initiating a process whereby the local authorities would, through workshops, be enabled to address relevant issues and solutions for emergency responses. Further objectives were to assist in confidence and institution building, modernization and decentralization in support of the concepts of local governance. The workshops took place during the fall of 2002 in Ohrid, Gostivar and Veles and involved local mayors, police, rescue services, hospitals, civil defense components, the Ministries of Local Self-Governance, Defense and Interior as well as the former Crisis Management Board.

The project was financed by contributions from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Assistance for police reform in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

As a follow-up to a series of seminars for Macedonian police related to the 1999 Kosovo crisis, the ODIHR has developed and implemented a programme aimed at supporting the reform of the police in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Following the adoption of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in August 2001, the ODIHR has continued to assist the local authorities and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje in developing specialized police training courses and workshops. A first workshop was organized in the fall to discuss how to handle cases of trafficking in human beings. Participants included judges, police, prosecutors, lawyers, governmental officials and representatives from NGOs and

FOCUS ON SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

civil society. The project was financed by a contribution from the Government of Switzerland.

Civil Society Academy in Kosovo/FRY

During 2002, the ODIHR supported the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in establishing a Civil Society Academy. Civil society in Kosovo lacks motivated, skilled leaders to serve as reference point, driving force and mobilizers of NGOs across ethnic, geographic, thematic and other divides. The Academy



my was created to develop competencies of potential NGO leaders and to build a network of individuals and NGOs capable of mobilizing civil society on key policy issues of relevance to citizens and communities.

Establishing civil society dialogue between NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia

Together with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the ODIHR supported an initiative to re-establish civil dialogue between NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia. The ODIHR assisted in setting the stage for a step-by-step dialogue aimed at fostering better understanding and reconciliation, assisting the return process and improving inter-ethnic relations. Several very successful and well-attended meetings took place during 2002.

Roma community advocacy in Kosovo

In continuation of a project launched in 2001, the ODIHR this year assisted the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in training Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo as community advocates. The future community advocates were trained to liaise between their respective communities and state authorities such as the police, social services or municipal officials. The project also aims at developing a general understanding among Roma and related groups of the democratic institutions which are available to them and how to use them. The project was initiated in response to the situation of many Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo, many of whom depend on the international community for their basic needs

and security. Their opportunities to know, demand and defend their rights and to participate in government and public affairs are generally very limited.

Ombudsperson institutions in Kosovo

As part of its capacity-building strategy for national human rights institutions, the ODIHR assisted and supported the Ombudsperson office in Kosovo in sending both professional and administrative staff to the Slovenian Ombudsperson institution for training and exchanges of experiences and expertise.

Montenegro: Action Plan

Following the transfer of the ODIHR's Office in Montenegro

ODIHR activities in South Eastern Europe support confidence building, reconciliation and stabilization processes

to the OSCE Mission in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (OMiFRY) at the end of 2001, the ODIHR continued its successful co-operation with the local authorities and other actors to strengthen the ongoing democratization processes in the Republic, in particular in the fields of elections, gender, anti-trafficking, legislative reform, Roma issues and institution building. These projects were implemented thanks to contributions from the Governments of Switzerland, Finland and the United States of America.

DEMOCRATIZATION

PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM

Terrorism is widely recognized as a threat to international peace and security. The framework for the response of the OSCE to this threat is to be found in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action. These two documents reflect the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security by highlighting activities to be carried out in relation to the politico-military, economic and human dimensions of security. The work of the ODIHR is, of course, focused on the human dimension activities of the Bucharest and Bishkek Documents.

The ODIHR has developed its activities to prevent and combat terrorism on the basis of the references to human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Bucharest and Bishkek Documents. Accordingly, the activities of the ODIHR can be divided into two broad areas of work. The first area concerns addressing the factors which engender conditions in which terrorists may recruit and win support. The second area concerns the compliance of anti-terrorism measures with OSCE commitments and international law.

ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann with a religious leader at the Baku international conference on religious freedom and combating terrorism

The ODIHR has created the position of Co-ordinator on Anti-Terrorism Issues to further develop the activities of the ODIHR and to co-ordinate the activities with OSCE field missions, the Secretariat in Vienna and other international organizations. The Anti-Terrorism Co-ordinator took up his post on 1 October 2002, and will initially focus on assessing the requirements of the OSCE field missions and centres in developing projects to prevent and combat terrorism.

ODIHR road map on preventing terrorism

The 2001 Bucharest Document mandated the ODIHR to address some of the factors that engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support, in particular with regard to strengthening democratic institutions, human rights, tolerance and multi-culturalism. In addition, the 2001 Bishkek Document places a heavy emphasis on human rights and stresses the need for strengthening the rule of law, building democratic institutions, enhancing the capacity of the judiciary, engaging civil society and promoting tolerance and dialogue among religions and cultures.

In response, the ODIHR has developed a road map of projects addressing the issues highlighted in the two documents. On this basis the ODIHR, together with other OSCE institutions and field missions, is implementing a variety of assistance programmes with the broader goal of developing democratic, inclusive societies based on the rule of law which would be less susceptible to political or religious extremism. Assistance programmes have been carried out in the Caucasus, Central Asia, South Eastern and Central and Eastern Europe, and cover topics such as trafficking, civic diplomacy, human rights training, prison reform, Ombudsman, training for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers, and border service reform.

Monitoring of anti-terrorism legislation

A main theme of the 2001 Bucharest and Bishkek Documents is that counter-terrorism measures must be carried



out in full conformity with obligations under international law, including international human rights law and OSCE commitments. Consequently, the ODIHR has monitored the introduction of specific anti-terrorism legislation and other broader legislation adopted under the anti-terrorism rubric. In addition the "Legislationline" website, which is run by the ODIHR, compiles legislation on terrorism throughout the OSCE region. In order to provide a comprehensive analysis of legislation and practices introduced since 11

ANTI-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

September 2001, the ODIHR has commissioned a report by the International Helsinki Federation entitled "Anti-terrorism Measures Among Helsinki Signatory States". The report will identify changes in both legislation and practice. The aim is to assess the compliance of these measures with both OSCE commitments and with other international human rights standards.

The report, which is to be published in early 2003, will focus on core rights that have been jeopardized by legislation and practices introduced as part of the fight against terrorism. These rights include freedom of liberty, the right to a fair trial, the right to respect for private life, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, the right to property and the right to seek asylum. The ODIHR will use this report as a basis for monitoring and reviewing anti-terrorism measures throughout 2003.

On request by participating States, the ODIHR can offer technical assistance and advice related to the drafting of legislation necessary for the ratification of international instruments on terrorism and on the implementation of international anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, as well as on the compliance of this legislation with international standards. To date, no request for such assistance has been made.

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY PROJECTS FUND

TIn 2002, the ODIHR continued to offer support to small-scale activities implemented by OSCE presences. A special emphasis was placed on projects related to the promotion and protection of human rights outside the capitals of the respective countries. Due to very limited funds (only €65,000 available against €150,000 requested), the ODIHR could only support 29 projects this year, ranging from €750 to €5,000. The grassroots programme was supported by contributions from Norway, Denmark and Canada.

The majority of project proposals came from small OSCE presences in Central Asia, the Caucasus and from the Mission to Moldova. For the first time, the ODIHR supported grassroots projects in South Eastern Europe, namely in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

A number of grassroots projects led to the publication of practical handbooks or training material on various human rights issues. Often it was possible to use this material again, beyond the specific project it was produced for.

In 2002, the following grassroots projects were supported by the ODIHR:

ARMENIA

Participation of anti-trafficking expert in panel discussion: Support to the participation of an anti-trafficking expert from the Ukrainian NGO "La Strada" in a seminar on trafficking in human beings during the Yerevan Human Rights Film Festival, and promoting the collaboration and sharing of experience on anti-trafficking issues among OSCE participating States.

AZERBAIJAN

Support to non-Azeri communities in Baku: Supporting non-Azeri communities with re-integration into society and regaining their rights, and monitoring of individual complaints resolution.

Civil dialogue in the regions: Initiation of dialogue between local authorities and civil society in rural regions of the country and assessing needs for further action.

Co-operation between NGOs and police on human rights: Support to police training in international human rights standards.

KAZAKHSTAN

Seminar on international standards in labour rights and their incorporation into Kazakhstan's legislation: Sponsorship of the first countrywide seminar on international labour rights and labour migration in Kazakhstan and their incorporation in the Kazakh legislation. The project also covered illegal labour migration.

Monitoring rights of illegal labour migrants in south Kazakhstan: Supporting research on the monitoring of the rights of illegal labour migrants, as well as the adoption of legislation on labour migration and the legalization of illegal migrants as a conflict-prevention approach to inter-ethnic problems.

Follow-up round table on import and storage of radioactive waste: Support to a follow-up round table on the recommendations that emerged from the October 2001 conference on import and storage of radioactive waste in Kazakhstan.

Support to the co-ordination council on death penalty moratorium: Awareness raising among the population on issues related to the application of the death penalty and mobilization of public support for a moratorium on capital punishment.

Training on lobbying campaigns: Training of a group of professionals as trainers on how to carry out lobbying campaigns in the Parliament and in the regions.

Publication of public information material on women's rights: Producing and publishing posters and postcards on gender equality in public life and politics.

Training of journalists on human rights: To ensure adequate coverage of human rights issues in the Kazakh media by training journalists in international human rights standards and human rights institutions, and to mobilize public support for the media to raise human rights issues.

KYRGYZSTAN

Publication and distribution of a newspaper for prisoners: Support to the publication of a prisoner newspaper with information on daily life outside prisons, legislation, legal

opinions and advice, including an FAQ rubric and a medical advice column. The newspaper is distributed free of charge in the prisons of Kyrgyzstan to help re-integration of inmates into society after their release.

Round table on election processes: Examination of the elections held in Kyrgyzstan in 2002 and their shortcomings in preparation for a referendum on constitutional reform in December 2002.

Round table on human rights monitoring in orphanages: Development of an in-depth analysis and presentation of the findings of monitoring reports on the human rights of children in the orphanages of Kyrgyzstan. The report will include recommendations on reporting on children's rights.

NGO forum in Osh on civil society and development: To discuss the role and contribution of NGOs to the country's development, and to support dialogue between the NGO community and governmental structures.

Sociological research on youth and religion in east Kyrgyzstan: In support of discussion on tolerance and conflict prevention among young people.

Gender mainstreaming into national plan on equality and human rights: In support of the on-going discussion on the recognition of equal rights between men and women.

Forum of leaders on solutions to crisis: The promotion of transparency and openness regarding difficult situations in the country and presentation of ideas and possible solutions to political and social problems.

MOLDOVA

Expert participation in anti-trafficking conference in Kazakhstan: Supporting the participation of a Moldovan expert in an anti-trafficking conference in Kazakhstan, to share Moldova's experience with effective legislative measures to counter trafficking in human beings.

POLAND

Web guide for tolerance education: Supporting the development of a web guide on tolerance education.

TAJIKISTAN

Human rights training for secondary schools students: Providing training to a group of young human rights activists from the ethnically mixed southern region of Tajikistan, Kumsangir, as a contribution to conflict prevention.

Civic education programme: Promoting tolerance and plurality of opinions and fostering awareness of rights and responsibilities among young people in Khatlon, the province most affected by the civil war. The programme aims at supporting the new mandate of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe.

Journalistic competition on 10th anniversary of adoption by Tajikistan of UN Universal Human Rights Declaration: To further encourage the engagement of journalists of print and electronic media in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-civil war society throughout the country.

Round table on Freedom of Religion: To convene a meeting of secular and religious leaders to discuss the freedom of religion situation in Tajikistan and to promote international standards on freedom of religion and belief

Access to higher education for girls in Qarategin valley: Promotion of access to higher education for girls from remote districts of Tajikistan and to protect equal rights to education of women and men.

UZBEKISTAN

Gender youth conference: Support to a youth conference on gender mainstreaming issues and equal rights and opportunities.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Micro-level media advocacy on women's rights: Assistance to improving public education on women's rights by increasing public access to information through three local TV stations, and to women of the Banat province to raise awareness of their rights.

Prevention of sexual harassment at schools and universities in Montenegro: Training young women on how to protect themselves and prevent sexual harassment in educational institutions.

ROMA AND SINTI

The OSCE, as early as 1990, was the first international organization to recognize the “particular problems of Roma (gypsies)” in the context of the proliferation of racial and ethnic hatred, xenophobia, and discrimination (Copenhagen Document). As a result, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues was established within the ODIHR in 1994. Headed since 1999 by Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe, a renowned Roma activist from Romania, the Contact Point works to promote “full integration of Roma and Sinti communities into the societies they live in, while preserving their identity” (1998 OSCE Oslo Ministerial Decision). With a view to realizing this goal, a work programme is being implemented focusing on the advancement of the political rights of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area, on acute crisis prevention and crisis management in post-conflict areas of South Eastern Europe, and on fostering and supporting civil society development among Roma communities.

In addition, the Contact Point

- provides advice to OSCE governments on the implementing of Roma-related policies
- acts as a clearing house for the exchange of information on Roma and Sinti issues, including information on the implementation of Roma-related commitments by OSCE participating States;
- enhances interaction between OSCE structures, governments, international organizations and Roma or Roma-related NGOs to develop synergies and common approaches; and
- collects information from OSCE countries on legislative and other measures related to the situation of Roma and Sinti and makes it available to the OSCE community and other international organizations.

Tasked by the 2001 OSCE Bucharest Ministerial Council, the Contact Point is currently developing an Action Plan aimed at further strengthening its ability to assist OSCE governments in fulfilling their commitments to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti in their countries.

ODIHR Roma Adviser testified at hearings on Roma rights

On 9 April, Nicolae Gheorghe, the ODIHR Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues testified at a hearing on “Romani Human Rights: Old Problems, New Possibilities”, organized in Washington, D.C. by the US Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The hearing focused on educational issues. Mr. Gheorghe informed the Commission about the challenges which Roma face in this and related human rights and democratization areas, as well as on initiatives and activities carried out by the ODIHR to improve the situation of Roma in the OSCE region.

On 8 May, Mr. Gheorghe also briefed the European Council’s Working Group on Enlargement (COCEN) in Brussels on Roma-related issues in EU accession states.

Side meeting on access to justice for Roma and Sinti

On the margins of the Human Dimension Seminar on Judicial System and Human Rights, the Contact Point organized a side meeting on access to justice for Roma and Sinti on 24 April. The goal of the meeting was to discuss what can be done to use existing human rights instruments more effectively to protect the rights of Roma and Sinti and to ensure that they receive legal assistance when needed.

The meeting also discussed related projects implemented by the Contact Point, including a compilation of court cases on discrimination against Roma, and the development of a database on anti-discrimination legislation, institutional enforcement arrangements and relevant court cases within the OSCE area. Both projects were launched in 2002.

Migration of Romanian Roma

In a series of meetings with Romanian parliamentarians, NGOs and government representatives, the Contact Point addressed the issue of migration of Roma from Romania to France. The legal and illegal immigration of Romanian Roma and the involvement of some of these migrants – both as victims and perpetrators – in the trafficking of women, children and disabled persons exploited by begging networks received great attention among the French media and the two governments.

At an ODIHR round table in Sibiu on 22-23 August, a declaration was adopted by the participants that reaffirms the civil and political rights of Roma, including their right to freedom of movement and asylum. The declaration also includes recommendations on how Roma NGOs can contribute to combating trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of women and children. The declaration

received wide media coverage and served as a platform for follow-up discussions with the Romanian parliament on 27 August and during the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September.

The meetings helped launch a public debate and raised awareness among Roma in Romania and France regarding the controversial aspects of migration of Roma to other European countries. It was the first time such aspects were openly discussed with the broad involvement of Roma leaders, government officials and the media.

Support for local Roma contact points

In 2001, the ODIHR Contact Point continued to support the establishment of a network of local Roma contact points, or community workers, throughout the countries of South Eastern Europe. The task of those contact points, which are also known as mediators or community advocates in some countries, is to facilitate contacts between Roma communities and local and regional authorities with regard to social, educational and human rights issues as well as Roma-specific policy measures.



To help prepare the newly appointed contact points for their role, the ODIHR organized a series of training workshops at the national and regional level throughout the Balkans. The objective of the workshops was to train the new contact points in communication skills, networking, and conflict management and planning, and to provide them with information on the role of local authorities, legal frameworks and relevant international organizations.

Roma women share expertise in organizing NGOs

The Contact Point organized a training workshop in Belgrade from 19 to 23 January for Roma women in post-conflict areas in South Eastern Europe. Six senior Roma women activists conducted the training and passed on their experi-

ence to Roma representatives of newly established NGOs. Over the following months, the trainers served as mentors, providing advice to the trainees and assisting them to establish their NGOs.

Roma refugee support centre established in Shuto Orizari

Supported by the Contact Point, a communication and support centre for Roma refugees from Kosovo was established in Shuto Orizari, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The centre facilitates communication with other refugee groups in South Eastern Europe and serves as a clearing house between the local refugee community and the authorities and international organizations. The Contact Point supported similar initiatives in other countries of the region.

Round tables on housing-related conflicts

The Contact Point organized several round tables to assist national and local authorities with monitoring and resolving tensions related to access to housing, legal residence and municipal services, in particular in settlements with high concentration of Roma tenants.

In Piatra Neamt, **Romania**, such a round table was organized in January following the highly publicized controversy sur-

The ODIHR promotes the rights of Roma in the OSCE area

rounding plans of the mayor to set up a closed compound housing the town's Roma families. The meeting succeeded in improving relations and restoring trust and confidence between the local Roma community and the municipal authorities after tensions between the municipality's Roma and non-Roma communities had risen to dangerous levels following the mayor's statement in October 2001.

In Plovdiv, **Bulgaria**, a round table was held in May to discuss how tensions, such as the riots that had broken out in a Roma-populated neighbourhood over a dispute with the municipality on the provision of municipal services, could be prevented in the future. Participants in the meeting, which was jointly organized with the US-based NGO Project on Ethnic Relations and local Romani NGOs, discussed a number of unsolved issues that had triggered conflicts in the past, including the massive debts of many tenants in the neighbourhood owed to the municipality's energy and water providers, illegal construction of houses, lack of proper reg-

ROMA AND SINTI

istration of many of the Roma, long-term unemployment and tensions between family clans.

As a result of the meeting, it was agreed to appoint a local contact point to serve as a mediator between the local authorities and the Roma community. A follow-up meeting was held in Sofia on 21 November.

At the international level, an expert round table on preventing conflict and tensions related to housing of Roma and Sinti was organized by the Contact Point in co-operation with the Slovak Government and the Council of Europe in Presov, Slovakia, on 7-8 June. Some 50 mayors, local officials, government representatives and international experts discussed strategies to tackle the numerous challenges that are connected with the emergence of "ghetto"-like residential areas with a high concentration of Roma inhabitants in several municipalities across Central and South Eastern Europe. These challenges include the segregation of Roma neighbourhoods, lack of basic infrastructure, unresolved property rights and unclear administrative status of settlements. A follow-up meeting will be organized in Skopje on 13-14 December in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The Contact Point tasked an international expert to develop appropriate research tools to document forms of discriminatory treatment of residents in housing and other public services. The documentation and monitoring tools are to be applied in municipalities where housing-related issues are potential sources of tensions between different communities.

Networking workshop for Roma in Kosovo

In late August, the Contact Point held a round table in Pristina, Kosovo to discuss ways of resolving internal differences and to promote networking among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities of Kosovo. Among the participants were community advocates, or local contact points, of the respective groups, as well as representatives of international organizations and NGOs. Through sharing experiences of self-organization with other Roma communities, the meeting helped to create channels for better communication and contributed to capacity-building among the participating NGOs.

Advancing political rights and the electoral participation of Roma and Sinti

As part of its efforts to increase the political participation of Roma in society, the Contact Point organized a training workshop for some 30 leaders of Roma communities in southern **Poland** on 3-4 July. Participants came from the Malopolska and Slansk regions where the highest concentra-

tion of Roma in Poland can be found and where the Polish Government is currently implementing a pilot-project for improving the living conditions of Roma.

The training focused on civic education and included sessions on the upcoming local elections in Poland. A "Plan for Electoral Activation" of Roma was produced at the end of the session. The plan is the first stage in a long-term programme aimed at increasing Roma participation in the social and political life of the regions. In autumn, the Contact Point organized three more seminars on civic education and electoral participation in the Malopolska region of Poland. As a possible result of the seminars, which were organized together with the British "Know How Fund", the turnout among Romani voters during the 27 October local elections was reported to be unusually high in the areas where the seminars took place. Follow-up meetings will bring together newly elected local authorities and local Roma to explore joint actions with regard to the social and civic integration of Roma of the region.

As part of its programme to advance the political rights of Roma, the Contact Point assessed the level of participation of Roma voters in the parliamentary elections in the **Czech Republic** on 14-15 June and in **Slovakia** on 20-21 September. Documentation visits and discussions with representatives of Roma political parties and NGOs, as well as with local councillors and officials of Roma origin, formed the basis of the assessment which was reflected in the final reports published by the ODIHR on these elections. To follow up, the Contact Point will support electoral training for Roma voters' view of the upcoming local elections in Slovakia.

The Contact Point also contracted an expert to assess the electoral participation of Roma in the October local election in **Greece**.

In the run-up to the 2002 presidential elections in **France**, the Contact Point held a series of meetings with the French authorities and human rights groups aimed at improving the participation of non-sedentary Roma, or *gens de voyage*, in elections. French legislation includes specific provisions on the registration of *gens de voyage*, which are currently under discussion because of the growing awareness of the potentially discriminatory impact of the legal provisions on this group's participation in the elections. The issue was also addressed in the ODIHR report on the presidential elections.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Contact Point and the OSCE Mission carried out a programme to raise the partici-

pation of Roma voters in the 5 October general elections. As an initial step, an awareness-raising campaign was launched with a view to increasing the level of registration of a number of particular categories of voters, including first-time voters, women and voters without regular ID. Other activities included a voter education campaign as well as establishing a Roma monitoring team to assess the participation of Romani populations in the elections.

The Contact Point also facilitated the deployment of Romani short-term observers within the framework of ODIHR election observation missions. These observers were specifically tasked to collect information on the electoral behaviour of Romani individuals, groups and communities, as well as potentially problematic issues regarding the participation of Romani populations in the electoral process.

Round table in Montenegro on refugees and IDPs

As part of the joint ODIHR-Council of Europe programme on Roma refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) was organized on 7-8 November in Budva, Montenegro/FRY. The round table discussed the actual situation of Roma IDPs in Montenegro and explored possible durable solutions, including repatriation or integration in the host society. The participants looked into the question of what status should be given to the refugees and IDPs in case they remain in Montenegro. The round table was organized to create a forum for discussion among Roma refugees and IDPs, the authorities, local Romani citizens and NGOs.

Consultations on European Roma assembly

The Contact Point played an effective role in brokering a preliminary agreement on some of the modalities of a future pan-European Roma assembly among Roma organizations participating in the third meeting of the exploratory group on the creation of the assembly, held in Helsinki on 10-12 March 2002.

The exploratory group, which consists of representatives of Roma organizations as well as of the ODIHR Contact Point and the Council of Europe, was established to discuss the "Halonen initiative", named after the Finnish President, Ms. Tarja Halonen, who proposed to set up a pan-European Roma representation with consultative functions during a speech before the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly in January 2001. As a result of the March meeting, preliminary agreement was reached on a representation model for Roma organizations in the consultative assembly. On 7 November, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers endorsed the Halonen initiative, clearing the way for a new phase in its implementation.

Seminar on Roma and self-determination

With assistance from the Contact Point, the US-based NGO Project on Ethnic Relations (PER) on 15-16 May organized a seminar in Jadwisin, Poland on Roma and the question of self-determination for Romani leaders and activists from throughout Europe. The issue of Romani self-determination has been discussed increasingly in recent years, both by Romani and non-Romani actors, in particular with regard to Romani representation at national and international level and participation in Roma-related policy making programmes. In this context, the Contact Point actively supported the process of developing modalities for a pan-European consultative assembly of Roma representatives. Furthermore, the Contact Point promoted discussions on the sensitive issue of self-determination within the framework set out by OSCE human dimension commitments, including those related to national minorities.

Romania: equal access of Roma to health institutions

In the context of its partnership agreement with the Romanian Ministry of Health and Family, the Contact Point, in cooperation with the NGO Romani CRISS, launched a training programme for health community workers in January. The health community workers, or mediators, are appointed by the Ministry to ensure equal access of Roma to public health services at the local level. Following a first seminar in January, a textbook was produced with support from the ODIHR, which has been used for the training of the newly appointed health community workers. Based on the experience in Romania, the ODIHR will promote this initiative in other OSCE countries as well.

MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Monitoring Unit within the ODIHR follows and analyses human rights developments and compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States. Another focus of the ODIHR's work in this field is preparing and organizing OSCE meetings on the implementation of human dimension commitments by participating States such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the annual Human Dimension Seminar and Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings. The Monitoring Unit also implements projects to advance human rights. As an early warning function, it alerts the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to serious deteriorations in human rights. The Monitoring Unit also prepares background briefings and provides advice on human rights issues for the ODIHR Director and the Chairman-in-Office.

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

ODIHR report confirms trend towards abolition of death penalty

The ODIHR's 2002 death penalty report, which was presented at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September, confirmed the ongoing trend towards the abolition of capital punishment in the OSCE region.

The number of completely abolitionist countries within the OSCE reached 43 by the end of the reporting period (30 June). Of the remaining 12 countries, four retain capital punishment only for wartime offences. Three other countries have instituted a moratorium on executions and can therefore also be considered de facto abolitionist. According to the study, only five OSCE countries actively use the death penalty and carry out executions for crimes committed during peacetime. These are Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

While the use of the death penalty is not prohibited by OSCE commitments, participating States are obliged to apply capital punishment only for the most serious crimes in accor-

dance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to their international commitments. They have also committed themselves to making information on the use of the death penalty available to the public.

International conference on capital punishment in Kazakhstan

An international conference devoted to the abolition of the death penalty in Kazakhstan took place on 31 September–1 October in Almaty. The conference was organized by the OSCE Centre in Almaty in co-operation with the ODIHR, Penal Reform International, Open Society Institute and the International Kazakhstani Human Rights Bureau.

The meeting discussed the possible introduction of a moratorium on capital punishment in Kazakhstan, one of the few countries in the OSCE where the death penalty continues to be in active use. In April, President Nazarbayev announced that the introduction of a moratorium and the possibility of a full abolition of the death penalty should be considered. Participants agreed that until a moratorium is in place, the applicable legislation and judicial practice should be reviewed to ensure that all safeguards are strictly upheld. The conference resulted in a public commitment to continue work on the abolition of the death penalty, to seek to diminish the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty, and to launch a large public awareness campaign on the issue.

TOLERANCE AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the threat posed by terrorism inspired by fundamentalism and extremism of any kind is as obvious as is the need to counter that threat. At the same time, it is recognized that any measures combating terrorism need to be carried out strictly within the boundaries of international human rights commitments, including rights to the freedom of religion and belief.

Against this background and in response to many requests, the ODIHR in 2002 increased its project activities aimed at promoting freedom of religion and belief. Several legislative reviews were conducted and a number of meetings organized aimed at promoting freedom of religion and belief, tolerance and dialogue between religious groups and authorities as well as amongst religions.

Jalal-Abad conference on freedom of belief and expression

In February, the ODIHR and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek organized a conference on Freedom of Belief and Express-

sion, with the assistance of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference brought together leaders of religious groups, representatives of governmental authorities and NGOs, diplomats and academics from Central Asian and other OSCE participating States in Jalal-Abad, southern Kyrgyzstan.

The conference provided government officials, NGOs, and scholars the opportunity to exchange views on one of the most pressing issues in Central Asia: the relationship between the state and religion.

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union there has been a large growth in religious activity in Central Asia, both of religions traditional to the region but also of non-traditional missionary activity. Governments in the region have reacted with concern in some cases and some have sought to control any religious activity not approved by the government-appointed religious administrations established in Soviet times.

Despite the increase in religious activity, the level of knowledge on religious issues is still often low among the general population and, as a result, it is feared they can be easily converted to extremist movements. This need for improved education as a means to combat the growth in extremism was frequently highlighted at the conference.

The Jalal-Abad conference also emphasized that the ability to express one's religious beliefs freely was a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of democratic society, and, therefore, a prerequisite for lasting stability. In the final conference document, participants also reaffirmed international commitments on the issue. The plan of action proposed by the conference calls for greater dialogue between religions and beliefs and governments as well as inter-confessional dialogue, and urges the OSCE to support this dialogue through its various institutions.

Follow-up activities in Central Asia

In early 2002, the ODIHR's Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief carried out a review of the Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations in Kazakhstan. A subsequent round table to solicit the views of religious and NGO representatives was organized by the Centre in Almaty. A review was also compiled of a draft Law on the issue in Kyrgyzstan and in February, a member of the ODIHR's Advisory Panel attended a round table on the Law in Bishkek, where he delivered a brief outline of his upcoming analysis of the Law.

Round tables in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan

In May 2002, the ODIHR and the OSCE Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan, held a round table on inter-confessional security to analyse the situation of human rights and religious freedom in southern Kazakhstan. The lively exchange of opinions contributed to improving the climate for dialogue between state and religious institutions. The round table was a follow-up activity of the plan of action of the earlier Jalal-Abad conference.

At the suggestion of the Mission in Tajikistan, the ODIHR sponsored round tables in Dushanbe and Khujand to examine the situation in that country. It was acknowledged that, though an improvement in religious education and education for tolerance was required, the situation in the country was relatively satisfactory.

The need to ensure religious freedom in the fight against extremism was also stressed by participants at an OSCE meeting in Baku on 17 and 18 June. The meeting, which was jointly organized by the OSCE Office in Baku and the ODIHR, in co-operation with the Azerbaijan State Committee on Working with Religious Associations, brought together over 40 representatives of state institutions, non-governmental organizations, academia, and religious communities. Participants discussed the role of religious education in countering religious extremism, registration requirements for religious communities, conscientious objection to military service, and the topical issue of the wearing of headscarves in passport photographs.

Baku Conference on religious freedom and preventing terrorism

In October 2002, the ODIHR, together with the Government of Azerbaijan organized a major international conference on the role of religion and belief in a democratic society and combating terrorism and extremism.

The important role that religions and beliefs can play in preventing terrorism and conflict was stressed, as participants called on states to ensure religious freedom and to direct measures to combat terrorism at individual perpetrators of terrorist acts only, and not against the national, ethnic or religious community to which they belong.

The participants, who included representatives of governments, religious communities and civil society from the OSCE region, Mediterranean partners, and the Great Silk Route, rejected any attempt to justify terrorism and extremism on any political, religious, economic or social grounds. "All religions and similar beliefs preach tolerance and

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respect for the inherent humanity of all persons, and that violence and terrorism are incompatible with the authentic spirit of religion”, reads the document which contains the conference’s conclusions and recommendations. “The recourse to terrorism under the name of religion does not demonstrate a clash of culture, but a clash based on ignorance.”

The conference participants urged states to fully respect human rights, and the freedom of religion or belief in particular, in the fight against terrorism. “Just as religion may wrongly be used to justify terrorism, so can ‘anti-terrorism’ actions of governments wrongly be used to justify actions that undermine human rights and freedom of religion or belief”, the conference document warned, reflecting discussions in the working groups.

Draft new religion law prepared for Bosnia and Herzegovina

In October, the leaders of the four main religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church, the Islamic Community and the Jewish Community formally signed off on a new draft Law on the Status of Religious Associations, prepared with ODIHR support. The religious leaders handed the draft to the country’s Collective Presidency, which has undertaken to forward it to Parliament for debate and eventual adoption.

The draft Law was prepared by experts of the ODIHR Advisory Panel with the co-operation of the religious communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who worked together recognizing their common interest in the issue of restitution of property and the necessity of ensuring the right of individual citizens to enjoy their constitutionally-defined rights to freedom of religion and belief.

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

More than 700 participants came to Warsaw in September to attend this year’s OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting - more than ever before in the ten-year history of this meeting. Particularly remarkable was the high number of NGO representatives, including key international human rights NGOs like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

New modalities

The Meeting was organized in line with the new modalities adopted in May 2002 by the OSCE Permanent Council, which organized the Meeting in two parts. During the first week, the implementation of the full range of OSCE human dimension commitments, in all 55 OSCE partici-

pating States, was reviewed. The second part of the Meeting was devoted to forward-looking discussions with a view to fostering implementation of, as well as to refining and further developing, OSCE commitments. The discussions during the second part of the meeting were devoted to human dimension activities, with a special emphasis on project work, followed by discussions – each lasting one full day – of two specifically selected topics: trafficking in human beings and international election standards.

Opening

The meeting was opened with statements by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Antonio Martins da Cruz, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz. The opening plenary was also addressed by the Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, and the Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve also made opening statements. The former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari delivered a key-note address.

At the Reinforced Closing Plenary, Ms. Hina Jilani, the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, delivered a key-note address.

Human rights and terrorism

The protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism was a most appropriate theme during the first days of the conference, which fell on the first anniversary of 11 September. “It is a dangerous illusion that terrorism could be won only by using military power”, said Martti Ahtisaari, the former President of Finland, in his keynote address. “In parallel, the international community should address the root causes of conflicts and the sometimes-legitimate sense of injustice through diplomacy, economic aid and peace processes.”

Fragile states with frail institutions represented a particularly easy target for global terrorism, Mr. Ahtisaari said, underlining the importance of a comprehensive approach to the fight against terrorism. Porous borders, weak and corrupt law enforcement forces, and impotent judicial systems made the task of terrorists easier.

“True democracy is more than just organizing elections once in a while”, ODIHR Director Stoudmann said at the closing session. “Too often, we see mere appearances of democracy, while the fundamental understanding – that democracy actually means credible checks and balances, social and eth-

nic inclusiveness, a truly independent judiciary and an active and participatory civil society – is still missing.”

Countering terrorism

The United States’ range of responses to the new security threats posed by terrorism were discussed in one of the sessions. During a telephone conference, Amb. William H. Taft IV, Legal Adviser in the US State Department, answered questions from participants and defended his country’s position on the treatment of detainees in Guantanamo Bay, mili-



tary tribunals, the International Criminal Court, the death penalty and other controversial issues. He stressed that “the United States is committed to the belief that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the best defence against the rise of extremism and terror”.

Elections

More than a decade after the adoption of the 1990 Copenhagen Document – which contains the most comprehensive catalogue of international commitments in democratic elections by far – a special one-day session discussed what some referred to as “Copenhagen II”, a new set of commitments reflecting the experiences of participating States and international organizations in holding and overseeing election processes.

As an initial step, the ODIHR presented a draft analysis of existing case law, standards and commitments that are outlined in various documents or have emerged from international forums. Participants urged the OSCE Ministerial Council to assign the ODIHR the task of working on the document over the coming year, with a view to developing new commitments to be undertaken by participating States on democratic elections.

Trafficking in human beings

In another full-day session, devoted especially to issues concerning the trafficking in human beings, the discussions

focused on the need for national referral mechanisms and for advocacy of victims’ rights. In addition, the involvement of some international field mission personnel in this modern form of slavery was discussed. OSCE participating States were called upon not to close their eyes to such incidents but to hold their citizens accountable for any involvement in criminal activities in mission areas.

Roma and Sinti issues

In a significant development, Roma NGOs, mostly from France and Romania, acknowledged the culpability of individuals from their ethnic group in human trafficking activities and made known their determination to work with national authorities in countering the problem. The subject

Participants of the ODIHR conference on the role of religions in combating terrorism in Baku, October 2002

came up during a series of meetings organized by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues on freedom of movement and asylum seekers. Romani groups had been reluctant to acknowledge the role of Roma in trafficking and other organized-crime activities for fear it would jeopardize their safety and perpetuate existing stereotypes.

“This move paves the way for the participation of Roma civil society in the responses of governments to trafficking and other forms of illegal migration”, said Nicolae Gheorghe, the ODIHR’s Roma and Sinti Adviser. “By involving civil society, we hope to ensure that states do not just take repressive measures; they should also address the root causes that lead to Roma becoming victims of ruthless smugglers or trafficking networks.”

Side events

A number of side events to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, organized by the participating States, OSCE and its institutions and NGOs, highlighted a broad range of human rights topics. The conference ended with a strong call on governments to redouble efforts to eradicate human rights violations and push forward democratic reform in the OSCE area.

A special meeting of the Permanent Council on 4 October discussed a report by ODIHR Director Stoudmann on key recommendations emerging from the conference. The meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council on 7 and 8 December

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in Porto, Portugal, is hoped to follow up on the discussions in Warsaw and Vienna. The full report of the meeting is available on the ODIHR website at www.osce.org/odihr.

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS

Special meeting on community policing

The third 2002 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, devoted to the role of community policing in building confidence in minority communities, took place in Vienna on 28-29 October. The meeting focused on various aspects of community policing, particularly its role in confidence building in minority communities and post conflict situations.

The meeting was attended by police experts from the participating States, representatives of civil society, the OSCE and other international organizations. Keynote speeches were delivered by Ambassador Kai Eide, Head of the Norwegian Delegation to NATO, and Richard Monk, Senior Police Adviser and Director of the OSCE Strategic Police Unit, while the working sessions were addressed by experienced police experts from Western Europe and North America.

The working sessions highlighted the general benefits of community policing, such as increased transparency, accountability, confidence, trust and partnership, and focused on particular experiences and problems of transi-



shift of the underlying philosophy of police work, from a purely law-enforcement approach to problem-solving and service-delivery. It was emphasized there exists no single universal formula for community policing, and that any reform has to be applied with respect to local political and cultural realities.

As a result of the meeting, a series of recommendations were formulated. These are included in the final report of the meeting that is available on the ODIHR website at www.osce.org/odihr.

Other human dimension meetings

The ODIHR's Monitoring Unit also was instrumental in organizing the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings on violence against women and prison reform, as well as the Human Dimension Seminar on judicial systems and human rights. Reports on these meetings can be found in the relevant thematic chapters under "Democratization".

ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann with Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

tional societies in introducing community policing. One of the key problems stressed by the participants was the lack of understanding of the concept of community policing in the OSCE area and the misconceived separation of community policing from general rule of law principles. Participants underlined the need for comprehensive police reform supported by a strong and clear political will, and called for a

PRIORITIES FOR 2003

In the coming year, the ODIHR will further develop and fine-tune its election observation operations, democratization projects and human rights monitoring activities with a view to ensuring proper follow-up, including at the political level. In doing so, the ODIHR will ensure that the Office's key comparative advantages – its flexibility and rapid response capability – are retained. In all its work, the ODIHR will remain guided by the conviction that democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms represent essential preconditions for stability and security in each participating State as well as in the OSCE area as a whole.

In the field of elections, the ODIHR will focus on the South Caucasus, where a number of important elections are scheduled for 2003. At the same time, the Office will remain engaged in other regions, particularly in South Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to improve follow-up to and implementation of ODIHR recommendations, and to continue election reports, and to continue the process of election reform, together with the respective governments and civil societies.

Also, the ODIHR will complete a major analysis of existing election standards and commitments in consultation with other international organizations active in this field.

In the field of democratization, the ODIHR will continue to provide rapid-response projects and to deepen co-operation in development work in a number of states. Central Asia and the Caucasus remain key strategic regions for democratization activities, but activities and assistance in other participating States remain a strong area of interest for the ODIHR.

With the newly established position of Anti-Terrorism Coordinator now fully operational, the ODIHR will make the fight against terrorism a top priority within its democratization and human rights monitoring activities for the coming year. The Office will focus in particular on analysing counter-terrorism legislation and measures contemplated by participating States, monitoring their impact on human rights, and developing and implementing projects addressing factors engendering terrorism. A major ODIHR conference focusing on these issues is planned for the end of 2003.

Seeking practical approaches to countering human rights problems such as trafficking in human beings or torture will also remain high on the ODIHR's agenda during 2003. Special emphasis will be placed on promoting women in poli-

tics, an area where the ODIHR has carried out a lot of ground work over the past years, with a number of large-scale and highly successful training projects in Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

In South Eastern Europe, the ODIHR will continue to provide a forum for co-ordinating OSCE human dimension activities, as well as sharing best practices and the exchange of project information and expertise. It is planned to expand this successful model to other OSCE regions in the coming year.

The ODIHR's freedom of religion activities will shift from the regional exploratory meetings held in 2002 to more concrete activities such as legislative reviews, developing guidelines on reviews, and public-awareness programmes.

In the field of Roma and Sinti issues, the ODIHR will continue to focus on promoting the participation of Roma in elections, both as voters and candidates, and on improving co-operation between Roma communities and local authorities, particularly on social issues. The successful programme on Roma under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, a joint project with the European Commission and the Council of Europe, is expected to be extended in 2003 for another two years.

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

CAUCASUS

ARMENIA	
NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Women's Rights Education for Young Women	<p>To educate young women both in the capital and in regions on women's rights and gender equality and to involve them in civil society and the women's movement in Armenia.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: January-June 2002 – Gender courses at six Universities of Armenia; June-July 2002 – Workshop for students on gender equality; – Student round table on evaluation of the gender courses 2001; August 2002 – Training of trainers on women's rights, gender equality and women's participation in society; August 2002 – Gender training for university lecturers; August-December 2002 – Follow-up training seminars in the regions of Armenia; Sept- December 2002 – Gender courses for university and high school students; December 2002 – Evaluation workshop.</p>
Assistance to Reform of Registration System	<p>To assist the authorities of Armenia with implementing a newly passed set of laws dealing with registration of citizens and permanent residents of the country.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 – Project on hold pending passing of relevant laws by the National Assembly (Parliament).</p>
Tolerance Package for Armenian Education System	<p>To assist the authorities of Armenia with the conceptual development and introduction of tolerance education in the country's education system.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: November 2001 – Experts draft tolerance package; March-April 2002 – Two-month pilot experiment in 20 schools; September 2002 – Introduction of package into Armenian secondary schools.</p>

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Womens Leadership and Political Participation	<p>To provide leadership and network building skills for women in the regions, and promote women's empowerment across the country by developing local mechanisms to promote leadership and strengthen lobbying mechanisms among women in the government and civil society structures.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: May 2002 – Training of trainers on women's leadership and network building; June-September 2002 – Follow-on training seminars in the regions, support to local network building initiatives in the region; December 2002 – Training on gender policy development: Training workshop for women from government structures; December 2002 – Evaluation workshops.</p>
Prevention of Violence against Women	<p>To initiate drafting of legislation on prevention and combating violence against women, and build capacity of law enforcement bodies to be trained on prevention and combating violence against women.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: July 2002 – Training workshop for police academy trainers on development of strategic approach on combating violence against women; November 2002 – Training workshops for prosecutors and judges</p>
Adoption of a Unified Election Code	<p>To assist the Azeri authorities in improving the legislative and administrative framework and adopting an Election Code in line with international standards.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: August-September 2002 – Reviewing the draft Election Code; November 2002 – Joint ODIHR/Venice Commission visit to Baku on the revision of the draft; December 2002 – Review of the revised draft Election Code; Mid-December 2002 – Convening the first round table.</p>

GEORGIA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Women's Leadership and NGO Coalition Building	<p>To develop mechanisms to promote women's leadership and empowerment, and enhance NGO lobbying networks on gender equality, women's empowerment and strengthening women's role in public life.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME:</p> <p>April 2002 – Workshop on planning capacity building for women's NGO coalition (phase I)</p> <p>May-August 2002 – Training of trainers on women's leadership and network building (phase I); – Follow-on training seminars in the regions, support to local network building and development of country wide initiatives on women's rights;</p> <p>September 2002 – Training of Trainers (phase II)</p> <p>December 2002 – Follow-up workshop for women's NGO coalition (phase II) – Evaluation workshops.</p>

REGIONAL

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Legislation Alert and Assistance Programme	<p>To monitor the development of new legislation in the Caucasus states, to make it compliant with OSCE Human Dimension Commitments and other international standards, and to increase input from civil society into legislative processes.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Prison Reform Based on International Standards for Treatment of Prisoners <i>EC-ODIHR Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building in Caucasus</i>	<p>To assist the Caucasus states in establishing a comprehensive training programme for prison personnel, including development of prison facilities and a curriculum based on international standards for the treatment of prisoners, and to strengthen the ability of local NGOs to monitor prison conditions in co-operation with the prison officials.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME:</p> <p>Early 2002 – Discussions with Prison Administrations of the Caucasus states to plan a preliminary conference on prison reform and start preparations in Tbilisi;</p> <p>Spring 2002 – Conference and evaluation of further regional approaches to prison reform;</p> <p>Through 2002-2003 – Development of a comprehensive approach to training prison personnel based on international standards for the treatment of prisoners.</p>
Technical Assistance for National Human Rights Institutions such as Ombudsman	<p>To assist the Armenian and Azeri authorities in developing a national human rights institutions, and the Georgian Public Defender in up-grading operational functioning of the office.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Assistance to Border Service Reform	<p>To develop training, inter alia on human rights, for border guards of the three South Caucasus states in order to upgrade functioning and to assist them in implementing international standards and best practices.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME:</p> <p>May 2002 – Training visit by border officials from Armenia to Poland; visit by Commandant-in-chief of Azerbaijani border service to Poland. COMPLETED</p> <p>September 2002- first half of 2003 – Training of 15 border officials from Azerbaijan in the Training Centre for Border Guards in Kętrzyn (Poland).</p>
Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme <i>EC-ODIHR Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building in Caucasus</i>	<p>To strengthen local human rights monitoring and capacities, develop co-operation among local human rights monitors from the three Caucasus countries, and train human rights activists on human rights monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME:</p> <p>Through 2002 – All training sessions in Armenia and Georgia completed;</p> <p>September-November 2002 – First and second training sessions in Azerbaijan.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

REGIONAL	
NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Building NGO Capacity to Combat Trafficking <i>EC-ODIHR Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building in Caucasus</i>	To raise awareness about trafficking among women's NGOs and women leaders, to involve them in preventive work and assistance to victims, and to promote the exchange of expertise and materials on anti-trafficking issues. Conducted in three Caucasus states, starting in Armenia. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002-2003
Public Awareness Programme on the Administration of Justice in the Caucasus	To increase public awareness of human rights through a series of radio programmes and radio talk-shows with a particular focus on rights during detention, trial and imprisonment within the context of recently started penitentiary system reforms in Azerbaijan and Georgia. TIMEFRAME: Georgia: June- August 2002 Azerbaijan: September - November 2002
Review of the Compliance of National Legislation with Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement	To review the national legislation's compliance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, to produce recommendations on bringing the legal status of the internally displaced in line with these standards and promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. TIMEFRAME: February 2002 – Phase II: national workshops in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Publication due in Autumn 2002. PROJECT COMPLETED
Workshops on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination	To promote tolerance and freedom of religion and provide assistance in meeting international obligations; workshops for law enforcement agents, legislators, draftsmen and other actors in the administration of justice in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. TIMEFRAME: Summer 2002
Seminar on the Role of Religious Dialogue and Tolerance in Combating Terrorism, Baku, Azerbaijan	To promote and enhance tolerance and freedom of religion in, and exchange of best practices among, participating States in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Seminar organized in co-ordination with the government of Azerbaijan. TIMEFRAME: October 2002 PROJECT COMPLETED

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Women's Rights Awareness (Phase II)	<p>To identify candidates for women's leadership in the government, enable women NGOs to lobby political parties, and to design and initiate voter education.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Throughout 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training of NGOs on networking, coalition building and advocacy; Implementation of small-scale projects outside capital on women's leadership.
Prison Service Training	<p>To assist the government of Kazakhstan in upgrading the operational functioning of the prison system by developing training for prison service on human rights standards and improving prisoner treatment and security.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Early 2002 Through 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Form working group and drafting a curriculum development plan; – Implementation of plan.
Assistance to the Training Centre for the Judiciary	<p>To provide assistance to a permanent and self-sustainable training structure for judges and raise their knowledge of international human rights treaties and other generally recognized norms of international law.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: October/November 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First training of trainers workshops for judges on methodology and interactive teaching.
Training for Staff of Pre-trial Detention Facilities	<p>To assist the government of Kazakhstan in upgrading the operational functioning of the pre-trial detention facilities in relation to the best practices of OSCE participating States.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Early 2002 Spring-Summer 2002 Late 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying experts qualified to conduct the round tables and undertake the assessment mission; – Conducting round tables in various regions for staff and assessment of long-term needs. – Conducting round tables on international prison standards, rights of detainees and international standards relating to torture and inhuman or degrading treatment in various regions for all senior staff.
Preliminary Criminal Investigation Assistance Programme	<p>To assist the government of Kazakhstan in upgrading the performance of the investigative staff of the Minister of Interior (MoI), with a view to compliance with international norms and standards.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: End 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High-level needs assessment round table <p>NOTE: The round table is the first stage in a three-step plan with phase 2 and 3 being implemented in 2003.</p>

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Women's Leadership, Lobbying and Network Building	<p>To build civil society capacity on promoting women's empowerment and increase of women's role in decision making in the regions, and develop the first phase of a media campaign on promoting women's participation in politics.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Student Legal Aid Initiative on Criminal Law, University of Osh	<p>To train law students on criminal law and related international standards, and assist them in providing legal assistance to individuals in need.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Assistance to Reform of Registration System	<p>To assist the authorities of Kyrgyzstan in implementing a newly passed Law on Internal Migration that addresses issues of internally displaced persons, and registration of citizens and permanent residents.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: July 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Round table involving countries of Central Asia, Belarus, and the Russian Federation to share experience gained. <p>PROJECT COMPLETED</p>

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

TAJIKISTAN

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Prison Service Training	To enhance the standard of the administration of prison service and train prison service employees in meeting human rights standards and methods of improving prisoner treatment and security. To implement the working plan designed in 2001. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Legal Support Centre for Women, Legal Clinic at Russian-Tajik Slavic University	To assist the Russian-Tajik Slavic University (RTSU) in running a legal clinic ("street law"), to co-ordinate with other clinics and co-operate with women's NGOs on protecting women's rights. To implement a RTSU Clinic's work plan. TIMEFRAME: Academic year 2002

TURKMENISTAN

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Prison Service Training	To assist the government of Turkmenistan in upgrading the operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the best practices of the OSCE participating States. TIMEFRAME: Spring 2002 – Identifying an expert qualified to undertake the needs assessment mission, and completing the needs assessment mission and recommendation for follow-up assistance; Summer 2002 – Implementing of long-term assistance based on results of assessment.

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Training of Trainers for Professional Education Centres	To train trainers on human rights standards and methods of establishing and running human rights courses in the government's professional education centres for prosecutors, judges and investigators. TIMEFRAME: November 2002
Assistance for the Development of Models of Alternative Sentencing	To assist the Uzbek authorities in implementing a system of alternative sentences by training of trainers, judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers, continuing work begun in 2001. TIMEFRAME: Early 2002 – Publication of training manual based on Uzbek law and international best practices; Late 2002 – Training of prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges.

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Women's Rights Monitoring and Advocacy Project	Round table meeting on women's rights in marriage and divorce procedures (Uzbekistan), and train and encourage NGOs to carry out projects on monitoring women's human rights: - Training on monitoring of women's rights; - Implementation of small scale monitoring projects; - Review of results of monitoring. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002

REGIONAL	
NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Legislation Alert and Assistance Programme	<p>To monitor development of laws related to the human dimension of the OSCE, to help ensure their compliance with international standards and commitments, and to increase input from civil society into legislative processes. Conducted in the Central Asia states.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Prison Service Training <i>EC-ODIHR 2nd Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia</i>	<p>To develop and improve training for prison service on UN and international human rights standards and on improving prisoners treatment and security. To assist Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in transferring penitentiary service authority to the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Assistance for National Human Rights Institutions such as Ombudsman <i>EC-ODIHR 2nd Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia</i>	<p>To assist the Kazakh and Kyrgyz authorities in establishing their office structure of a national human rights institution and to continue to support the Uzbek Ombudsman Office in up-grading operational capacities in the central office and regional offices.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: January-December 2002 – Depending on when the laws are passed and the Ombudspersons are elected, the ODIHR will assist in establishing the operational capacities.</p>
Legislative Reform Assistance <i>EC-ODIHR 2nd Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia</i>	<p>To assist the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in reviewing their domestic laws and ensuring an implementation of the laws in compliance with international treaty obligations.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Early 2002 – Complete preliminary compliance reviews; Through 2002 – Consult with the authorities regarding the findings and recommendations of the ODIHR expert's review and provide recommendations for the monitoring of compliance and practical steps to improve the implementation of legislation.</p>
Assistance to Border Service Reform	<p>To assist the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in upgrading the operational functioning of their border guard services in relation to the best practices of OSCE participating States.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: September-October 2002 – Training of border officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the Almaty Border Guard Academy.</p>
Civic Dialogue Project <i>EC-ODIHR 2nd Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia</i>	<p>To establish a dialogue on human dimension issues between government officials and representatives of civil society in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: 20 March 2002 – Meeting on Human Rights Monitoring, as a follow up to Human Rights Training, held in Astana, Kazakhstan; 16 May 2002 – Round table on Confessional Security and Observance of Human Rights held in Shymkent (south Kazakhstan); 30 September - 1 October 2002 – Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Kazakhstan, held in Almaty.</p>
Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme <i>EC-ODIHR 2nd Joint Programme on Advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Central Asia</i>	<p>To strengthen local human rights monitoring capacities, to develop co-operation among local human rights monitors, and to train human rights activists on reporting on human rights issues in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 – All training sessions in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan completed; September 2002 - December 2002 – First and second training sessions in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.</p>
Regional Conference on Freedom of Belief and Expression in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan	<p>To foster dialogue on religion and religious freedom, and to discuss current legislation and normative bases regarding religion and religious freedom in Central Asia.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: January 2002 – Preparations for the conference; 15 – 16 February 2002 – Conference held in Jalal-Adad, Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>PROJECT COMPLETED</p>

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

CROATIA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Legal Assistance and Court Representation	To assist in strengthening processes ensuring the right of refugees to return and repossess property in the region. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002- 2003

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Assistance for Police Reform	To help create a legitimate, fair and effective network of police authority, building on successful programmes of previous years. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Professional Development / Confidence Building for Police and Mayors	Follow-up workshops and confidence building measures with senior representatives of the police and mayors of villages and towns, in order to facilitate co-ordination at the local level. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002

MONTENEGRO/FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Continuation of the SOS-Line And The Referral System 2002	To continue SOS-Line that provides first contacts for victims of trafficking, counseling and advice to the victims, professional communication with other institutions, monitoring of the contacts made by victims of trafficking and the development of trafficking components for judges and police, together with NGOs. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Legislative Reform	To continue to provide assistance and support to the on-going process of reform of the legal system in Montenegro through assistance to ensure drafting of new legislation is conducted in compliance with modern international standards and documents. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Municipal Gender Project	To support the further empowerment of women groups dealing with issues such as women's rights, anti-discrimination, participation in politics, domestic violence, trafficking and women in transition at the local level as a follow-up to the previous years' projects. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Roma in Montenegro	As a follow-up to the previous year's project, to strengthen the Roma NGO network in Montenegro, to draft and implement a programme of co-operation between Roma NGOs and municipalities, particularly concerning problems of housing. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002

SERBIA/FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Reform of Election Legislation	<p>To advocate the reform of election legislation in Serbia/FRY before the forthcoming presidential election, and to follow up on the ODIHR assistance project of 2001.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: January 2002 – Publish analysis of draft election law; – Discuss modalities of the project and invite participants; February 2002 – Seminar in Belgrade; April 2002 – Follow-up visit of the ODIHR. COMPLETED</p>

REGIONAL

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Regional Co-ordination Project	<p>To support the efforts of the missions on human dimension and democratization topics directly related to the mandate of the ODIHR. Conducted with the missions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Kosovo, as well as the other institutions of the OSCE and the Secretariat.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Prison Service Reform in Countries and Regions of South Eastern Europe Under the Joint Council of Europe/OSCE Initiative	<p>To continue assistance to prison services in Albania, Croatia, Serbia/FRY, Montenegro/FRY and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with an increasing emphasis on regional co-operation.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Regional Legislative Website <i>EC-ODIHR Joint Programme</i>	<p>To assist law makers from South Eastern European countries in bringing their legislation in line with international standards by developing a website providing samples of domestic and international legislation and other pieces of legal information in OSCE's core areas of expertise within the human dimension.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 and 2003</p>
Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe	<p>To map out responses to trafficking in human beings in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Romania. Conducted in co-operation with UNICEF and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: January-June 2002</p>
Roma under the Stability Pact <i>EC-ODIHR-CoE Joint Programme on Roma Empowering</i>	<p>To assist reintegration of Roma in disrupted communities and institutions, to support mediation services at local or national level for reconciliation, confidence building, and tolerance between Roma and the majority population and other ethnic groups. Conducted in in South Eastern Europe.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

OTHER REGIONS

BELARUS	
NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Awareness Raising and Counseling Infoline on Trafficking	To provide counseling and information services to potential victims of trafficking, refer trafficked victims and their families for psychological and legal assistance, and collect data on at-risk groups. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002
Youth and Society	To provide lectures for youth on democratic models and youth involvement in civil society. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Assistance to Human Rights Compliance with International Standards	To conduct seminars for judges, prosecutors and lawyers on international human rights standards and their application in the Belarussian judiciary. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Election Process	To provide advice to the authorities on election legislation and on implementation of elections, to assist independent observer networks, and to deal with the Government to reduce the state monopoly of the electronic media. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Alternative Sentencing	To share the knowledge of alternative sentencing and international experiences with the Belarussian judiciary and prosecutor's office, and implement a pilot project of alternative sentencing with the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Punishment Execution Committee of Belarus. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Support to the Improving the Penitentiary System	To organize training for the prison managers, prison personnel, medical units of prisons, juvenile inmates and major prisons. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Human Rights Training of Law Enforcement Personnel	To provide training on international human rights standards to mid-level law enforcement personnel in six regions of the country. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD
Master's Degree (MA) Programme, Centre for European and Transatlantic Studies (CETAS) at European Humanistic University (EHU)	To follow up the 2001 project on the Establishment of the MA Centre on European and Transatlantic Studies at EHU, and to provide support to the activities of the MA Centre. TIMEFRAME: Through 2002 ON HOLD

MOLDOVA

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Civic Diplomacy Project	<p>To increase human contacts of population in post conflict areas of Moldova, to foster a sustained dialogue between civic groups from the conflict areas and the rest of Moldova, and to enhance the contribution from civil society to the peace and reconciliation process in Moldova.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: November 2001- June 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To establish local Children and Youth Councils in Moldovan and Transnistrian localities, conduct training for youth leaders and regular meetings between Councils. <p>PROJECT COMPLETED</p>
Legislative review and Reform	<p>To improve the legislative basis for combating trafficking in human beings by supporting Moldovan authorities in drafting amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: ongoing since 2001</p>

POLAND

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Direct Assistance for Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking	<p>To provide direct services and material aid to victims of trafficking, as well as return and reintegration assistance to victims returning to Poland or in transit to their country of origin.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: May-December 2002</p>

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
NGO Networking and Capacity Building to Combat Trafficking	<p>To strengthen the NGO network and its capacity to address trafficking, and to promote the protection of trafficked victims and the prosecution of traffickers.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Human Rights Training for Judicial and Legal Practitioners, Local Administrators and Human Rights Workers in the Chechen Republic	<p>To increase knowledge and understanding of judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers on their roles and new legislative developments, and to enhance working relationships among judicial and legal practitioners, local governments representatives and staff of the Special Representative of the President for upholding human and civil rights and freedoms in the Chechen Republic.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002- 2003</p>

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR OF PROJECTS 2002

UKRAINE

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Assistance to Reform of Registration System	<p>To assist the authorities of Ukraine in implementing a reform of registration of citizens and permanent residents of the country.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: First half of 2002 – Regular meetings of inter-agency working group; May 2002 – Round table for newly elected parliamentarians; September 2002 – Workshop for government officials with the participation of international experts.</p>
Support for National Infoline and Regional NGO Hotlines Network against Trafficking	<p>To establish a national toll-free infoline which will provide information on the risk of trafficking and on migrant rights abroad, and to refer urgent calls to relevant authorities and NGOs. To continue support and train six grassroots NGOs from across Ukraine that work to prevent trafficking and provide hotline services.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>

REGIONAL

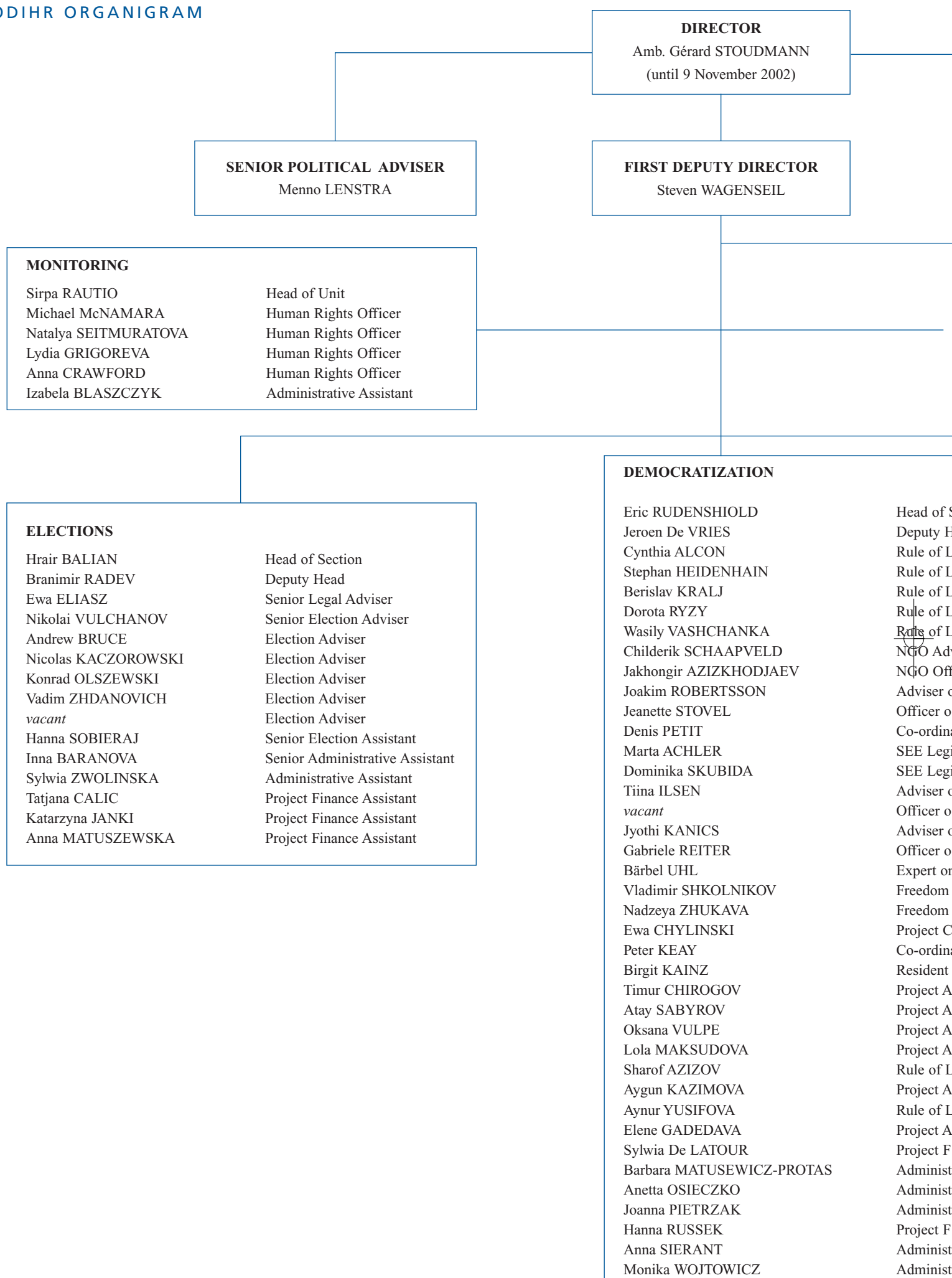
NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Follow-up Consultations to the Almaty Workshop on Cross-Border Co-operation and Development of Migration Legislation	<p>To continue assisting states of Eurasia in improving practical aspects of cross-border co-operation as well as in developing migration legislation in accordance with international standards and in co-operation with their neighbouring states.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: June 2002 – International workshop on Organizational Structures, Collection and Sharing of Migration-related Information in Prague, Czech Republic.</p> <p>PROJECT COMPLETED</p>

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Advancing Political Rights of Roma and Sinti	<p>To increase the level of participation of Roma in elections at local and national levels, to contribute to initiatives to create a forum for international representation and consultation for Roma and advance the political rights of Roma.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
ODIHR Anti-Torture Programme	<p>Based on the advice of the ODIHR Advisory Panel for Prevention of Torture: to raise the awareness of ill-treatment as a major human rights concern among governmental officials, law enforcement, legal community, NGOs and society at large, and to develop anti-torture strategies for governments in the OSCE region.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Fund for NGO Participation in OSCE Human Dimension Events	<p>To increase the involvement of NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS in OSCE human dimension events.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>
Anti-Trafficking Project Fund	<p>To empower OSCE field operations to develop and expand their regional and national anti-trafficking initiatives, and to enhance co-operation between the ODIHR, OSCE field missions and other local actors in combating trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>

GENERAL PROJECTS

NAME OF PROJECT	STATUS/PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION												
Grassroots Democracy Projects	<p>To encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democratization, and to support and expand the human dimension work of OSCE missions and field offices. 26 small-scale projects supported in 11 OSCE missions.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>												
Fund for Participation of Election Experts from Developing Democracies in ODIHR Observation Missions	<p>To increase participation of election experts and qualified observers from South Eastern, Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in ODIHR observation missions.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>												
Review and Analysis of International Commitments and Standards for Democratic Elections	<p>To review and analyse international commitments and standards for democratic elections from various international instruments, and to compile a comprehensive document.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>February-July 2002</td><td>– An expert to research and prepare parts of the writing in the initial draft paper;</td></tr> <tr> <td>July-August 2002</td><td>– An expert to review the existing comments, standards and interpretations and to develop the draft paper;</td></tr> <tr> <td>August 2002</td><td>– Circulating the draft document among international experts from the OSCE region for comments, discussing the draft with them, and producing a revised draft;</td></tr> <tr> <td>September 2002</td><td>– An expert meeting in Warsaw to further analyse the draft document, discussion on the draft document at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw;</td></tr> <tr> <td>October-November 2002</td><td>– An expert to revise the draft paper;</td></tr> <tr> <td>December 2002</td><td>– Circulating the revised draft among international experts, the OSCE participating States and submitting it to the OSCE Ministerial Council.</td></tr> </table>	February-July 2002	– An expert to research and prepare parts of the writing in the initial draft paper;	July-August 2002	– An expert to review the existing comments, standards and interpretations and to develop the draft paper;	August 2002	– Circulating the draft document among international experts from the OSCE region for comments, discussing the draft with them, and producing a revised draft;	September 2002	– An expert meeting in Warsaw to further analyse the draft document, discussion on the draft document at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw;	October-November 2002	– An expert to revise the draft paper;	December 2002	– Circulating the revised draft among international experts, the OSCE participating States and submitting it to the OSCE Ministerial Council.
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Electoral Legislation Alert and Assistance Programme	<p>To monitor the development of election-related legislation in relation to the human dimension of the OSCE, and review and discuss draft legislation and regulations in public meetings.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Through 2002</p>												
New Tactics for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	<p>To increase the knowledge of new tactical approaches to promote human rights, a training workshop will be organized for key human rights practitioners from Central Eastern Europe and the CIS.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Early 2002</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>–</td><td>Regional workshop.</td></tr> </table>	–	Regional workshop.										
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Early Warning on Developments in OSCE States	<p>To monitor and analyse human rights developments, in particular in regard to intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Throughout 2002</p>												

ODIHR ORGANIGRAM



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Adviser on Kosovo and SEE
Officer on Kosovo and SEE
Co-ordinator, SEE Legislative Website
SEE Legislative Website Assistant
SEE Legislative Website Assistant
Adviser on Gender Issues
Officer on Gender Issues
Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues
Officer on Anti-Trafficking Issues
Expert on Anti-Trafficking Issues
Freedom of Movement/Migration Adviser
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Co-ordinator on Anti-Terrorism Issues
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Project Assistant (OSCE Dushanbe)
Project Assistant (OSCE Tashkent)
Rule of Law Assistant (OSCE Tashkent)
Project Assistant (OSCE Baku)
Rule of Law Assistant (OSCE Baku)
Project Assistant (OSCE Georgia)
Project Finance Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Project Finance Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant

COMMON SERVICES

FINANCE

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Nevest PEROVIC

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Joanna PORCZYŃSKA

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Barbara JEDLIŃSKA

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Olga GORAZDA

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ADMINISTRATION

Maria ŁUKAWSKA

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Administrative Assistant

Anna KRZYSZTOFIK

Administrative Assistant

Ireneusz STĘPIŃSKI

Senior Logistic Assistant

Zuzann ŁUKASZCZYK

Registry Clerk

Renata WRÓBEL

Receptionist

Renata KURAS

Receptionist

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